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PART 24.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF MOROCCO.

1904.

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ERRATA.

Page 48, No. 69. Date of despatch should be March 8, not January 8.
Page 90, line 30. * and foot-note should be deleted.
Page 100, No. 170, line 3. For "Your Lordship's telegram No. 27" read "Sir E. Monson's telegram No. 33 of the 25th instant."
Page 166, No. 308, line 8. For "M. Cambon" read "M. Delcassé."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Morocco.

PART 24.

No. 1.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 2, 1904.)

(No. 260.)

Tangier, December 24, 1903.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 254 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a letter which I have received from Major Spilsbury in reply to my letter of the 10th instant.

I would propose to leave this communication unanswered, as there seems to be no reason for continuing the correspondence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON

Inclosure in No. 1.

Major Spilsbury to Sir A. Nicolson.

37, *Abbey Road, N.W., December* 19, 1903.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant.

I note that your decision with regard to the rifles has received the approval of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. No doubt this is a source of satisfaction to you, but it does not alter the fact that the course pursued is both illogical and illegal, since it conflicts with the judgment of the High Court of Gibraltar.

It adds one more to the blunders which the Foreign Office has throughout committed in dealing with my case. In no single instance has any point at issue between the Foreign Office and myself been submitted to a Court of Law, whether in the Queen's Bench, the Privy Council, or the High Court of Gibraltar, which has not been settled in my favour.

I have no desire to prolong this discussion, as my only object was to establish the fact that, in returning the rifles to the Moorish Government, you had committed an error of judgment, unimportant so far as the value of the rifles is concerned, but serious in respect to the principle involved.

I cannot admit that "any of my statements and arguments are incorrect or misleading," and challenge you to prove this assertion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. G. SPILSBURY.

No. 2.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 2, 1904.)

(No. 261.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 25, 1903.

WHILE in no wise wishing to take too gloomy a view of affairs in this country, I am unable to conceal from your Lordship that there is cause for considerable anxiety as to the future. In recent despatches I have had the honour to submit to your Lordship extracts from the reports which I received from the Consular officers on the coast which disclosed an increase and extension of disorders, the weakness of Government authority, and the turbulent spirit among tribes who had hitherto been considered peaceful and loyal. I received yesterday from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida despatches which reported an event which, in the present condition of the country, is of some significance.

The Oolad Said and other tribes of the rich and fertile district of Chaouia, which lies to the eastward of Dar-al-Baida, had risen in revolt against their Deputy Governor, and after destroying his cattle, were reported to be contemplating an attack on Statt, a small, prosperous town of some 4,000 inhabitants, about eight hours' march from Dar-al-Baida. It was considered at the time that such an attempt was not likely to be made, as Statt is the centre of a peaceful agricultural district whose inhabitants have been generally regarded as quiet and orderly people well disposed to Government authority. These hopeful predictions were, however, falsified. The Deputy Governor fled on hearing of the approach of the tribes, who, meeting with little or no resistance, entered the town and sacked, destroyed and pillaged all they could lay hands on. The news of this event caused considerable alarm at Dar-al-Baida, but there need, I think, be no apprehension for the safety of Europeans or others in that town. The significance of the attack on Statt lies in the fact of its having been perpetrated by tribes who were never regarded as disturbers of the peace, and it will show to others the ease with which a place of comparative importance can be captured, and it instances the light regard in which Government authority is held. It is rumoured that, having fulfilled their object, some portion of the disaffected tribes are desirous of making their submission and of obtaining a pardon which, in the present weak condition of the Government would, no doubt, be readily granted. There has been, however, no positive confirmation of this rumour.

From other parts of the southern districts the reports continue to be unsatisfactory; and a serious element of discontent and distress has been introduced by the great depreciation of the new Moorish coinage. There is now an agio in Tangier of 20 per cent. in favour of Spanish money, which is very difficult to obtain. Prices of every article of necessity have greatly risen throughout the country, while the long drought which preceded the recent rains has caused great mortality among cattle and sheep. The depreciation of the new coinage is not only a monetary, but is also a political difficulty, and is deepening the discontent against the Government. The financial straits of the Government will soon be serious, and though a loan will be of service, it would, I am afraid, prove in present circumstances, but a temporary alleviation. The Government will perforce have to discontinue the introduction of fresh silver coinage, and with this cessation will disappear the high profits which were accruing to the Treasury. They had contracted for a supply of 13,000,000 dollars (about 2,000,000 pounds), and of this a third has been delivered, with the unfortunate consequences from which the country is at present suffering. By all who have experience of this country, with perhaps one or two exceptions, it is admitted that it would be impossible for the Government to attempt to levy any internal taxes. They will then have to depend on their customs revenues, a considerable portion of which, certainly a quarter, will be pledged to the service of loans; and it is a question whether these revenues will not soon be affected by the disturbed state of the country and the consequent hindrances to trade. Heavy claims are pending on behalf of European property pillaged or destroyed during the past months, and these claims will be difficult to meet. Moreover, the customs revenue will now have to be collected in the depreciated silver coinage, and this will be an additional burden to bear. I may mention that the interest, about 13,000*l.*, is due on the 1st proximo on the three existing loans. The Customs administrators have only native silver coinage in their chests, and find, I am told, that in order to purchase bills on Europe they would have to submit to a loss of 50 or 60 per cent. I believe they are endeavouring to raise the necessary sum by other means. I do not think that any stability or real improvement will be brought into the financial situation until expert foreign advisers have been called in.

News from the Eastern districts and from the Riff is also disquieting. The Riff continues in a condition of fermentation, and the French Minister told me yesterday that the information he had received from Oojdah was that the Government forces there were in a pitiable condition, with little food, and suffering from the great scarcity and dearness of provisions, and that desertions were numerous and constant. The contingents who are returning to their homes after the last unsuccessful campaign are, I am informed, spreading disaffection by the tales of the feebleness of the central Government and their expressed intention of never returning to the assistance of the Sultan.

I have endeavoured to give your Lordship an outline of the general situation, and I do not think that I have unduly deepened its shadows. The unexpected often occurs in Morocco, and a sudden change for the better may take place, but as matters at present stand the state of affairs is decidedly unsatisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 3.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 2, 1904.)

(No. 262.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 26, 1903.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, reporting on the state of affairs at Tetuan and in its neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 46.)

Sir, *Tetuan, December* 24, 1903.

WITH regard to the state of this district, I have the honour to report that on my return I do not find much real change.

The tribes are still disaffected and in a state of revolt against all authority, and it is not considered safe to go far from the town.

The only part considered really safe is the road to the sea, which at present is mostly a marsh or under water.

The position of the town, moreover, is much stronger, as there are now here some 300 cavalry and from 1,000 to 1,500 infantry. It is difficult to get accurate numbers as the soldiers are under different Commanders, and none is apparently able to give one exact figures of each command. The troops not being under one Commander is a weakness.

I am informed that there is now an ample supply of rifles and cartridges, the townspeople having bought a good many on their own account.

It is said that if the tribes had followed up their attack on the town on the 11th May they must have taken the town, as on that day the townspeople expended nearly all their stock of cartridges and most of their gunpowder.

It is the general opinion that the tribes will not now dare to attack the town again, as they have received several sharp lessons.

It is also thought that the present state of things will continue for a long time, and the roads remain closed. I am unable to form an opinion as very few people come into the markets, and it is, therefore, impossible to learn the ideas of the country people.

It is openly stated that several leaders are drawing pay for soldiers who no longer exist, all their men having deserted, and it is also stated that the Sultan's uncle, El Amarany, whilst here used to receive 50 dollars a-day not to count the soldiers. Fifty dollars represents the pay of 250 soldiers.

The Governor also is said to have made a good thing out of the disturbances in the way of loot and the money he has received for soldiers' pay.

I give these statements for what they may be worth; I have heard them from more than one source, but of course they cannot be verified. I can only say the Governor seems very well pleased with himself.

I am informed that sometime back the Sultan sent a sum of money to be distributed amongst the poor of the town, but I gather that, as usual, a large amount of this went into the hands of people who had no claim to it.

Personally, I have received a very good reception on my return, but this, I think, may partly be attributed to the fact that the people take my return as a sign things are better, as though the authorities may have made money out of the disturbances, no doubt many of the people of the town and neighbourhood have suffered and are suffering greatly, not only from destruction of property, but on account of the increased cost of living, want of work, and not being able to work their land.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 4.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 6, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 260 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a copy of a further communication from Major Spilsbury, and I concur in your proposal to leave the letter unanswered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 5.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 8.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 8, 1904

A FRESH draft Contract for the proposed French loan is, I am informed, on its way here, and, on its arrival here, will be sent up to the capital.

Should I suggest to the Moorish Government that they might delay the consideration of it until the proposals from London are placed in their hands, or do you wish me to leave this project to take its course?

No. 6.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1904.

YOUR telegram No. 3 in regard to the Moorish loans.

The acceptance by the Sultan of a French loan at the present juncture would certainly be undesirable, our negotiations being only suspended. We cannot, however, give him to understand that a favourable outcome is to be expected of these negotiations. In fact, the contrary is more probable, unless there has been some change in the situation.

No. 7.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 9.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, January* 9, 1904.

CONTRACTORS have been requested by the Moorish Government to suspend for the present further silver coinage. The question has been referred by them to their principals in Europe, so that proposals may be laid before the Moorish Govern-

ment with regard to carrying out their wishes in the best method and also in a manner satisfactory to every one concerned. It is expected that the financial situation would be much improved if further deliveries of new coinage could be suspended. There are two French Contracts, one German, and one English.

No. 8.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Paris, January* 12, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable E. Stuart-Wortley, Military Attaché to this Embassy, respecting the submission of the Beni-Guil tribe to the Amel of Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart-Wortley to Sir E. Monson.

No. 8.)
Sir, *Paris, January* 11, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that information has been received from Ain Sefra to the effect that the tribe of Beni-Guil have given their submission to the Amel of Figuig.

The Beni-Guil are a powerful and turbulent tribe inhabiting a territory to the west of Figuig; and have been concerned in all the raids that have been made from time to time on the posts in the extreme south.

If the news of their submission be exact, the consequences should be very considerable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. STUART-WORTLEY,
Military Attaché.

No. 9.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Adam.

(No. 7 A. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 13, 1904.

THE Spanish Ambassador again referred to-day to the persistent rumours of an arrangement between Great Britain and Spain in regard to the future of Morocco. His Excellency said that the Spanish Government wished us to understand that they were fully prepared, at the proper moment, to discuss this subject with us. They were, however, seriously alarmed at the prospect of the kind of peaceful penetration which France appeared to contemplate. I told his Excellency that there had, as he was no doubt aware, been discussions between the French and British Governments, not only in regard to Morocco, but as to other questions of interest to both Powers; that these discussions had not yet led to any conclusions, but that we had from the first made it clear that Spain was to be fully consulted as to any arrangements affecting her position on the African Continent. There could, of course, be no question of diminishing her authority in her existing possessions, and I thought he would find that the French Government were as ready as we were to admit that it was desirable to prevent any European Power from establishing itself in the neighbourhood of those possessions, or upon the Moorish seaboard adjoining them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 10.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 14, 1904.

MOORISH loans. The redraft copy of the French Contract has reached Tangier. The contractor states that it has the approval of the French Government, but French Legation, I am informed, has no instructions to press or support it. The Contract provides for a loan of 25,000,000 fr. nominal and 20,000,000 cash, repayable, by quarterly payments to begin after two years, in fifty years. The Sultan cannot receive any money until two months have elapsed after date of signature of Contract. Six per cent. interest to be charged on Mogador, Casablanca, and Tangier Customs, and daily accounts from the Customs officials to be received by the Agents.

Owing to certain details in the Contract requiring further explanations, the Agents are not yet sending it up to the capital.

This week's bag from Tangier, which contained despatches dealing with the financial situation, missed the steamer at Gibraltar.

The exchange on Moorish coinage has fallen considerably here to-day, owing to cheques on Customs officials here having been drawn by the Finance Minister, who was under the impression that considerable sums of gold from England were in their possession, but they have nothing; and the cheques, which, I am informed, were not large ones, cannot be met. Confidence will be shaken and exchange will probably rise when this is known.

No. 11.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 15, 1904.

ON the coast, about fourteen miles north of Mazagan, a French sailing ship was lately wrecked; the crew, numbering seven, were plundered and, on show of resistance, were threatened by the natives, who also pillaged the ship. The crew are now safe at Mazagan. When the affair took place the Governor of the district was present, and he will be made responsible

A French cruiser, which happened to be here searching for a missing French transport, is being sent by the French Minister with a Moorish official; at Daralbaida she will pick up the French Consul, and will land him and the official at Mazagan.

No. 12.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 17, 1904.

A COPY of the draft contract of the French loan has been communicated to me confidentially. A copy of the contract will be sent to Fez for examination, probably to-morrow, it having been decided to hasten on the question without waiting for further explanations. I find that it is not only the daily accounts that are to be received by the agents at the three ports, but also payment in cash of one-fifth of the daily receipts. It is stipulated in an additional Article that the Sultan agrees that the contractors shall be at liberty, at any time after the expiration of eighteen months from the date of the signature of the contract, to issue a further loan of 30,000,000 fr. for the purpose of paying off the three existing loans. It is not known here who the contractors are, their names being left blank in the copy of the contract which is to be forwarded to Fez.

The necessary formalities cannot, I think, be concluded and the loan be ready for issue before the middle of March at the earliest, even assuming that all works smoothly.

No. 13.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—Received January 21.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 8, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday I received letters from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting me to inform Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, Major Ogilvy, and the two sergeant-instructors that the Sultan desired that they should proceed without delay to the Court.

I communicated the wishes of his Majesty to the above-named officers, and they are making preparations to leave immediately. I presume that the French Military Mission will also now return to Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 14.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 9, 1904.

THE condition of the roads, owing to very heavy rains, has rendered communication with Fez exceedingly slow, and couriers are taking ten days on the journey instead of three, as is usual. My latest information from the capital is dated the 28th ultimo, and the only item of interest which I have received is that the Pretender has apparently regained his health and was able to celebrate at Taza, with such pomp as was possible, the feast on the 21st ultimo. I am informed that the Pretender has not met with much success in inducing the tribes in the neighbourhood to collect their forces for further military operations as they are now busily employed in ploughing, and decline to abandon their avocations. It is therefore probable that, until these agricultural pursuits have been terminated, there will be no active operations on either side.

The French Minister told me that he gathered from the reports which he had received that the Pretender, owing to the fact of his having been wounded, had lost much of the mystery and glamour which had surrounded his personality, and that his cause might arouse less enthusiasm than heretofore among his adherents. M. Saint-René Taillandier added that he also heard that the garrison of Oojdah were contemplating a demonstration in the Riff country, but that, as their numbers had been greatly reduced by desertions, he doubted if such a movement were likely to be carried out.

I hear from Fez that the new Minister of War is dissatisfied with the state of affairs at the capital. He finds that the garrison exists chiefly on paper, and that the numbers actually present are few. I understand that there are not more than 1,500 men available. The military Commanders draw rations for a far larger number; and Ci Mohammed Gabbas, though anxious to remove such abuses, fears to bring the matter before the Sultan, as the Colonels enjoy the protection of His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 15.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 9, 1904.

THE reports which I received this morning from the coast towns are on the whole somewhat more satisfactory than the last. Several tribes near Mogador and Morocco city appear to have quieted down, and round Saffi and Mazagan there are at present no symptoms of disturbances. The immediate neighbourhood of Dar-al-Baida is evidently still unsettled, and Mr. Consul Maclean reports that considerable alarm exists in the town itself, both among Europeans and natives. The following are a few extracts from a private letter and a despatch which I have received from him on the subject, and dated the 7th instant :—

"Dar-al-Baida has been threatened with an attack from the Zenata. This tribe wishes the Governor to release a thief, one of their brethren, and he had refused. It is said that the Zenata have threatened to carry off a European and hold him until the Governor's prisoner is released. It would be easy for them to do this, and it is unsafe for Europeans to take their usual exercise outside the town. Here there has been a great deal of alarm, and it still exists. I do not see any good reason for it, but the balance of experienced opinion seems to be against me. There seems to be a fear that with the least excuse the native population will attack the Europeans. I think this is very unlikely. Our principal merchants have separately and confidentially advised me to ask for a small supply of rifles and ammunition to be kept in the Consulate; but I see no special cause for making such a request at the present moment.

"It is curious that my own natives here made a similar request to me. There is no disguising the fact that alarm exists, but why it should at this moment more than another I really do not know. It is difficult to explain what the natives fear, and there is no doubt of their anxiety. Every native sleeps with his weapon at hand."

From Rabat I hear that inter-tribal hostilities are continuing in the Gharb district; but this has been its normal condition for some months past.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 16.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne —(Received January 21.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 9, 1904.

HADJ MOHAMMED TORRES, the Sultan's Deputy here, convoked yesterday a meeting of the four representatives of the foreign firms which had undertaken Contracts for the issue of 12,000,000 dollars of silver coin (about 2,000,000*l.*), in equal proportions—that is, 3,000,000 dollars by each firm. There are two French Contracts, one German, and one British. By the original Contracts each firm was to supply 1,200 kilog. of silver coin monthly, and an Article was inserted in each Contract empowering the Sultan to defer deliveries at any time when it seemed desirable to him to do so. By these Contracts the full deliveries would not have taken place till four or five years had expired; but as the Moorish Government were making exceedingly handsome profits out of the operations, and as they were continually in need of ready money, they expressed the desire to expedite the deliveries. With this view fresh Contracts were made, by which the contractors were to purchase silver and also to accelerate the deliveries. These Contracts differed, I am told, from each other in various conditions, but in the British Contract the amount of deliveries was increased from 1,200 kilog. to 6,000 kilog. monthly.

Up to the present date I understand that a little over a-third of the total deliveries has taken place, leaving some 8,000,000 dollars still to be dispatched. The result of the influx of this new coinage, even in the present comparatively limited amount, has been to create a serious monetary crisis, and to cause great perturbation and distress among all classes. The new coinage to-day is refused by many banks and retail dealers; it is

depreciated already, as compared with Spanish silver, to the amount of 25 per cent.; and while the exchange on Europe for Spanish silver is 38 per cent., the exchange on the Moorish coin runs as high as 72 per cent., and this is nominal, as few would be able to buy bills on Europe with the depreciated money.

The crisis has arrived at a most unfortunate moment. It is the period when export trade is comparatively slack, but when the import trade is particularly active. Moreover, as no taxes have been paid for over two years, and large allowances have been granted to the men serving under the Sultan's colours, the peasantry have more cash at their disposal than has been the case for many years past. Large orders were therefore given for European goods, but the agents for the several European houses now find it impossible to send remittances to their principals, and are accepting from their debtors certain amounts of the depreciated coinage as deposits, in the hope that affairs will eventually improve. The situation is already leading to a restriction of the import trade, and consequently to a diminution of the Customs revenues. A further complication is also showing itself by the depreciation of the new (or Azizi) coinage as compared with the old Moorish (or Hassanie) coinage. The above circumstances have caused prices of all necessaries to rise greatly, and are producing a paralyzing effect on trade.

I have ventured to give your Lordship a rapid and imperfect sketch of the situation in order to explain the urgent necessity of some remedies being promptly adopted by the Moorish Government to restore confidence, and, if possible, to re-establish the value of the new coinage. The first step was clearly to suspend the arrival of further deliveries, and it was with this object that the Sultan's Deputy called together the four contractors and communicated to them the Sultan's desire that further coinage should be at once stopped for the present.

The contractors held a meeting among themselves, but, owing to the different natures of their Contracts, they appear to have been unable to come to an agreement as to the proposals which they would submit to the Government, and which would facilitate the object the Sultan has in view and at the same time protect their own interests. They consequently decided to inform the Sultan's Deputy that they would at once communicate with their several principals in Europe, and that as the Contracts were not identical it would be advisable that he should discuss the matter with each of them individually. There the matter at present rests. So far as I can ascertain, a considerable quantity of the coins already delivered in Tangier has not yet been paid for by the Moorish Government. It is estimated that the latter owe, roughly, about 100,000*l.* on these deliveries, and that to satisfactorily terminate or suspend the Contracts still running the Government would have to disburse some 60,000*l.* or 70,000*l.*

So far as the Government are concerned, the suspension or cancellation of the Contracts will result in the loss of large profits and the obligation to pay down a very considerable sum of money. It is in connection with this additional burden and the general question of loans that I would venture to address your Lordship in a subsequent despatch.

If the supply of further silver coinage can be arrested the depreciation will, it is expected, rapidly diminish, and the two currencies of Spanish and Moorish moneys approach more nearly in value. At the end of April or beginning of May the export of cereals will commence, and this will further tend to alleviate the situation, while the amount of Moorish coinage at present in circulation will probably have been largely absorbed. The crisis is severe, and many smaller merchants may be placed in a precarious and critical position; still, if the Moorish Government succeed in making satisfactory arrangements with the contractors, there is reason to hope that the anxiety and distress will gradually pass away. Moreover, the Moorish Government should take every possible measure to inspire confidence in their new coinage, and not refuse themselves to accept it, as has been the case in the export duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 17.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 10, 1904.

I VENTURED to suggest to your Lordship on a former occasion that it might be of advantage if, before the negotiations for the proposed English loan were finally con-

cluded, some expert opinion could be given on the financial condition of this country. The monetary crisis through which Morocco is now passing has disorganized all business transactions, and I do not think that its full consequences have yet made themselves manifest.

On a first view it would seem beyond doubt that the service of any loan would be fully and amply secured by the guarantees afforded by a portion of the Customs revenues of certain ports; and I do not question that if the agents of the undertakers of a loan were to sit with the Moorish officials as joint collectors of the Customs revenues a sufficient sum would be obtained to meet the interest and sinking fund of a loan. But in order that such an arrangement should be operative it would be necessary that all the Customs revenues were quite free and unencumbered, and were not subject to sudden calls by the Government for administrative or other purposes.

Assuming that the Moorish Government succeed in coming to an arrangement for the suspension or cancellation of the silver Contracts, a considerable source of temporary revenue will be dried up, and beyond a few trifling incomings the Government would depend for their livelihood on the Customs revenues alone. I exclude the possibility of the Government being able to collect any internal taxes in any case for this year.

The Customs revenues are not likely to exceed 350,000*l.* for the current year, and if the English loan were floated its service in conjunction with that of the French and Spanish loans would require about 100,000*l.* This would leave the Government 250,000*l.* for their own use, a sum which would assuredly not be sufficient. I would also point out that the Tangier customs are assumed to be the security for the three existing loans. I am informed, and I believe the information is accurate, that practically the whole of these customs are utilized for local requirements. The Tangier and Tetuan garrisons and also the force which is stationed near here for the protection of the road to Fez are all paid from the Tangier customs at the rate of 1,000 dollars (about 160*l.*) daily, and this practically absorbs all the revenues. Hitherto the interest on the three existing loans had been paid from coinage profits or from proceeds of the loans themselves, but at the end of last year when the interest fell due the Customs officials had only in their hands a quantity of newly-arrived Moorish coinage; and the requests which they had previously sent to the other coast towns to send up money for the purpose had met with no response. The difficulty which thus arose was only averted by an advance from England. The service of the three existing loans is therefore in reality provided for by customs other than Tangier.

The proposed English loan is for 800,000*l.*, nominal, or 736,000*l.* in cash; of this, 500,000*l.* would be taken to pay off the former loan, for the first quarter's interest, and also for repayment of advances made by Messrs. Coutts. This would leave 236,000*l.* at the disposal of the Government. They would have in the first place to clear off the orders which are outstanding on the Customs. I am unable to give any details as to their amounts, but the lowest estimate I have heard is 70,000*l.* Assuming this to be the case, that would leave 160,000*l.*, and this would be required, and possibly even more, for repaying and indemnifying the claims of the silver coinage contractors.

Moreover, the above-mentioned 70,000*l.* by no means represents the indebtedness of the Moorish Government to commission agents and others, and there are old outstanding claims of several Legations besides numerous pending ones consequent on the disturbances and losses caused to properties of Europeans or protected persons. With a net income of 250,000*l.* it would, to my mind, be impossible for the Moorish Government to make headway, and in a very short time they would be again in need of further assistance.

There is, too, one important item of expenditure which I have omitted to notice. If the Government propose to undertake fresh military operations in the spring, either against the Pretender or for the purpose of re-establishing order in the country, considerable expenditure will be entailed, and which they would be quite unable to meet out of their limited ordinary revenues.

I have indicated, but very cursorily, to your Lordship how the financial situation presents itself to me, and I do so with the utmost diffidence as I am not an expert in these matters, and also because I have practically no trustworthy data in my hands. If Moorish finances are to be placed on a satisfactory basis, and if the Moorish Government are to emerge from, what I call a hand-to-mouth existence, more comprehensive measures, I submit, are necessary than occasional financial assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 18.

Sir M. Gosselin to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 7. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Lisbon, January 13, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a letter which came into my hands confidentially a few days ago, addressed, on the 19th October last, by a German in the Sultan's camp near Taza, to his employers, who apparently have supplied Maxims and ammunition to the Moorish army.

The letter gives a graphic account of the situation at the Moorish head-quarters in September and October last, bears witness to the energy and courage of Cid-el-Menebhi, and is of interest as being the criticism of the only European who witnessed the battles of the 17th and 18th September, and that night skirmish when "we were all but lost," which is probably the same fight as that referred to in Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 224 of the 24th October last.

I would draw your Lordship's attention to the passage where the writer states that in the fight of the 17th and 18th September "an Algerian artillerist," apparently fighting for Bu Amara against the Sultan, was amongst the men found killed after the battle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Letter addressed by a German in the Sultan's Camp, near Taza, to his Employers.

(Translation.) *Sultan's Camp, October 19, 1903.*

YOU will no doubt have heard already that, by command of His Majesty the Sultan, I set out with a strong escort for the field camp the 9th October at 7 A.M. in order to mount the two guns which had been sent here, and to exhibit their efficiency. The result, up to the present, is so satisfactory that it could not be improved. We reached the Mahalla after a ride of twelve and a-half hours' duration, including one and a-half hours' rest. At 7·30 P.M. we entered the camp, and were shown into the tent of the Finance Minister's secretaries, and were then received by the officer in command of all the artillery. There we also partook of dinner. His Majesty was immediately apprised of my arrival, and that same evening at 9 o'clock he sent for me. He stepped out of his tent and conversed with me for more than twenty minutes, speaking very low.

To his inquiry whether I could bombard the highest hill opposite the camp, I replied, "certainly, if it is not too far." I ventured to ask if His Majesty was pleased with the guns, and he answered, "msjan, msjan," and a few other remarks, with such enthusiasm and so many gesticulations that I gathered the Sultan was more than satisfied.

In the morning of the 10th at 9 o'clock I was called out for gun practice. There were present His Majesty the Emperor and his Aide-de-camp, the Minister of War, several Generals and their staffs, besides, of course, all the men, who looked on with astonishment. We fired against the opposite very high hill (which can also be seen from Fez). I estimated the distance at about 4,000 metres, His Majesty considered it to be 2,600 metres to 3,000 metres. All the officers present were provided with good field-glasses, and watched the bursting of the shells. The first struck the centre of the hill, the second series a little further up, as I had pointed my gun higher, and the third series, at a distance of 4,500 metres, struck straight on the mountain cone. All the spectators were full of praise, and the practice was finished.

Immediately after I was summoned to the Sultan, where I remained for half-an-hour; a rifle was brought in, and I went through all sorts of exercises in the customary German way. The Sultan evidently took the greatest interest in the performance; he wanted every detail explained. With the command, "Attention! present arms!" and looking straight at His Majesty, I concluded my exhibition. At five in the afternoon I was again sent for, in order to repeat my morning's performance in presence of the Sultan's Aide-de-camp and the Minister of War. This time I not only executed all the phases, but gave at the same time the words of command, and it

could be clearly seen how much the Sultan regretted that his troops were far from being so well disciplined. When I showed how, at the last moment of battle, arms are piled, and, with loud cheering the village or fort is stormed, His Majesty could not refrain from saying: "If such discipline reigned in our camp, then something might be accomplished."

I had not long to wait for an opportunity of judging the courage of these men and their officers. On the 13th October, at 6 A.M., we marched off to attack the Zuli tribe, three hours from Taza. The Sultan commanded in person. But first I must inform you of a most interesting fact concerning all our Maxim fire-arms. We have in the camp nine repeating rifles ("Machinen-Gewehre"), 8 millim., and three machine-guns ("Machinen-Canonen"), 3·7 centim. These weapons are our best, and the Sultan delights in them. They are placed immediately in front of the Emperor's tent, and point towards the mountains, where Bu Amara roams with his followers. When marching out to a fight, the division armed with repeating rifles rides, escorted by a body of cavalry, immediately in front of His Majesty and the General, of myself and the interpreter. These rifles and guns are especially dear to the Sultan, and he takes such an interest in them that he often sends for me to inquire as to the repairs of these weapons.

The communication sent to you concerning the failure of ammunition for the repeating rifles is not quite exact, as I am convinced, through personal inspection, that this small ammunition is still there, at least, nearly all of it. However, I most urgently appeal to the firm to telegraph immediately to Germany about the sending of cannon ammunition, even if by thousands; for soon the time will come when the last of those 12,000 shells will have passed through the gun barrel, and what would than be the use of our cannons without ammunition?

Above all, I beg of you not to be anxious about me personally, since I am dressed in Moorish fashion like a Kaïd, have an escort at my disposal daily, and am stationed in the midst of the tents occupied by the Ministers and Generals at a distance of about 5 seconds from the Emperor's tent. At night my tent (a Commander's tent), is surrounded by twelve soldiers with loaded guns, and besides all that, my behaviour is so exemplary that I am liked everywhere. The people here fear our weapons so thoroughly that I do believe no one will harm me here in the camp. It might be different in a direct engagement, and even there my supposition has proved without cause; for, so far, I have taken part in two skirmishes, one serious engagement in the day-time, at three hours' distance from Taza, and a very dangerous night attack in which everything, absolutely everything, was very nearly lost, we, as well as His Majesty, and all our guns and ammunition; but Providence arranged it otherwise.

In the night of the 17th and 18th September our troops were victorious in a skirmish, in which our Maxim guns played an important part, a fact for which the Sultan personally expressed his thanks to me the following morning. In communicating this news, I beg of the honoured gentlemen to consider one thing, namely, that I am the only European in the Mahalla, and that there is not one other Christian here either as correspondent (reporter) or in any other capacity. His Majesty has appointed me Commander over all the Maxim guns, as well as practical leader and instructor, and I go into battle together with the respective General, at the head of our division. During the engagement I myself, as well as the General, or the Minister of War, manage one Maxim gun each, and our weapons do such excellent work, that one could not possibly wish it to be better. We controlled the great day skirmish of four hours' duration, fought at a distance of two hours' from the Mahalla exclusively with our weapons.

I fired my cannon so continuously that the great heat thus produced obliged me twice to have the jacket (mantel) filled with water, which evaporated completely. But when that fellow (*i.e.*, Bu Amara), high up in the mountains, attacked us even with a cannon, and had already fired six heavy shots, the Minister of War and myself considered that too much of a good thing, and as if with a broom, we swept the company off the mountain peak by aiming at an elevation of 3,000 metres; and as this proved not to be sufficient, we aimed at even a greater height according to our discretion, and after our strewing some of those big black beans about up there, all became absolutely quiet.

Unfortunately it was impossible to storm the respective villages, which were strongly barricaded (fortified); besides, we found ourselves in front of a deep abyss, and last, but not least, the cavalry lacked the necessary courage to storm the village; thrice they advanced, but had to retreat. The last time even the Minister of War took

part in the attack, yet the ensign was seen returning with the white flag. The General and myself directed our quick-firing guns towards the village and gave rapid fire, but though one could see the whole village in flames, and hear the frightful shrieking and lamenting of the inhabitants, our cavalry could not approach owing to the fearful gun-fire which came from that direction. At 3·15 o'clock we retired with all our artillery. There were also French and Italian cannons, which, however, were but seldom fired. This skirmish had the following result, as we heard later on: the Governor of these tribes and inhabitants announced to the Sultan that there were in the village thirteen killed and on the mountain eight killed, amongst them the Algerian artillerist of the respective weapon. Though we were not exactly victorious in this engagement, yet we had not many killed or wounded. If, on the other hand, we had won a decided victory, we should have been aware of the fact immediately as many prisoners and many chopped heads would have been carried off at once.

During the whole operation His Majesty was seated on a blue upholstered field couch at about three steps distance from my gun, and gave me all the commands about firing. I changed the aim more than twenty times, and had in consequence as many times to measure anew my distance. We were surrounded by more than 1,000 men cavalry, and each time that a series of shell landed in the village, there arose on our side repeated shrieks of applause from hundreds of voices on account of the good firing.

I saw how courageous the greater part of the army is by the fact that not a man would consent to turn my gun, and that more than half the soldiers had a little siesta whilst the most violent firing was going on, I wished that a shell might explode and effect a clearance amongst that lazy set. It can be noticed besides, at every possible opportunity, that all these people simply will not, and consequently make it impossible to, win battle after battle and skirmish after skirmish. What is the use of good cannons, guns, and ammunition, if the men are good for nothing, and besides . . . .

It is therefore not to be wondered at that the Sultan remains simply speechless on being told in what way such a skirmish as that of storming a village and mountain is managed by us German troops. I beg of you, gentlemen, to consider that there were in the field 6,000 cavalry and infantry, 7 to 8 weapons, amongst them 2 cannons and 5 Maxims ("Machinen-Gewehre"). Within one hour at the most we ought to have succeeded in gaining a decided victory, and not in such a way that it can be said: "These people are so brave, we can do nothing," for, after all, these tribes are simply villagers. Now, this skirmish took place on the 13th October at 8·13—12·45 A.M. counted from the time the first shot was fired till our marching off with the guns. I myself fired about 650 shells, my friend the General more than 800.

My present task is, besides looking after the three guns which are placed ready loaded and in perfect order in front of the Emperor's tent, to repair those nine repeating rifles which I found to be in a hopeless state of neglect; and that means a great deal of work.

I would have written sooner, but have not been able as yet to find time since my arrival here in the Mahalla. It is not only the repairs, the placing and changing of the entire stock of ammunition, the care of the tools and loading engines, which constitute my work, but by command of the Sultan I give twice a-day to commanders and soldiers an instruction in the management of our weapons. By this time I am quite accustomed to the negligent way in which the Moors handle these modern fire-arms, and I was therefore not surprised to see that those fellows had placed, for example, lock No. 678 in a musket No. 670, which caused some difficulty in the loading, only to be surmounted by aid of the bent end of a musket. In the excitement of combat they forgot, during the operation of the quick-firing guns, to supply the jacket with water: several barrels broke in consequence. During our first unexpected engagement it never entered my mind that these people had filled the ammunition cases ("girte") irregularly; of course, there occurred several obstructions in loading, and it was only when, after pointing out the mistake to the Minister of War, I myself, by the greatest possible exertion, had pushed home the cannon ammunition with fingers and knees that we succeeded in giving an excellent cannonade. I wish I had a photograph of that scene: more than 1,000 cavalry all round; to the right of the gun the Sultan, at whose feet I was busily filling the ammunition cases; near the gun, in the very midst of the firing, the Minister of War, and deep down in the ravines our advancing artillery; in the distance hills and huts on fire. It would have

been an excellent subject for a painter of battle-field scenes. Never in life will these moments escape my memory, and I shudder when I think of the determination and cold-bloodedness with which I stood behind the gun and fired. Without interruption the Sultan observed the movements of his troops and of his adversary through a telescope.

He repeatedly offered me his strong Goerz glasses, so that I might watch the enemy; but my own, too, proved very serviceable. When the command for withdrawing the guns was given, I had both the locks taken out and handed over to my escort, so that the guns, in case of our being obliged to abandon them, might be useless to the enemy, as they had no locks. This calculation amused those gentlemen immensely.

Then we had the night skirmish, in which, as already mentioned, we were all but lost; twice a gun had to be defended desperately by its gunners; once it had actually to be abandoned, but the men fortunately did not lose their presence of mind, and hid it quickly in a thicket. The night being very dark, I thought the gun lost when I noticed that it had ceased firing; however, the respective General galloped up with an escort, and soon there was again uninterrupted firing, and the roaring of that small cannon could be heard once more.

I do not know whether the despatches have already reached Tangier, but it is certain that we ourselves considered our side victorious in this night attack. The event happened thus. For several days there had been rumours abroad that, taking advantage of those dark nights, the camp would be attacked and destroyed—not a man was to be spared. These conjectures caused us to always have our cannons, guns, ammunition, &c., in readiness.

However, we had not long to wait—the night of the 17th–18th was fixed for the execution of this fatal blow. Towards 6 P.M. the news of the enemy's approach spread like wildfire through the camp, and caused great excitement: saddling of horses, occupying the mountain ridges to both sides, advancing the machine-guns, moving some cannons to the right and others to the left. All this was done in less than half-an-hour, for at 6·30 the roaring of cannon resounded from all sides.

The whole camp was in a state of tremendous excitement. I was given command to don a "tschilba" and to move to what is called the Sultan's camp in the stricter sense of the word, taking one Maxim gun and three repeating rifles. All round this Sultan's camp there is a narrow ditch and a wall of clay. The General's and Commander's tents are within this inclosure. I took my position in front of that wall; to the left of the entrance I placed a cannon and two repeating rifles, to the right, as seen from the Emperor's tent, a repeating rifle only. Outside, on a high mountain ridge, a body of cavalry was stationed; on each side of this force was placed a repeating rifle with a cavalry guard. I had the following orders from the Minister of War, to keep the mountain ridge under fire, if our troops should have to beat a retreat and the enemy on the mountain should fire into the camp.

Fighting began at 6·30 P.M., and continued without interruption till 10 o'clock, the cannonading being most violent from 7·30 till 8 o'clock; our troops had been obliged to retreat to within twenty minutes from the camp, and still not a shot was fired from above. Then the Minister of War advanced at the head of several hundred infantry and cavalry, and, God be thanked, the enemy had to retreat as far as the springs, an hour's distance from the camp. We dared not work our guns from fear of shooting down our own men, the night being so dark. More than eight times did the Minister of War ride by, always asking the same question, "Abslam," all ready, "everything in readiness," "keep watch," &c.

It was a sad yet beautiful moment for me to share, as the only European present: to the right and left thousands of infantry covering the ground, holding loaded rifles in their hands; in front of us continually renewed glimpses of the cavalry in action; everywhere among the mountains burning villages; officers of the staff riding to and fro; mules in a quick trot drawing cartridge waggons; the interesting cannonade of the quick-firing guns, and far, far away in the mountains bright signal fires, a sign that the Mahalla had been entirely destroyed during the night; but God willed it otherwise.

The enemy suffered heavy losses, and we, too, had many wounded brought into the camp; at 6 o'clock a prisoner was brought in half dead. I suppose that the mountain cone, where the machine-gun had been at work, was being stormed at that time, for everything remained quiet up there, though firing was going on all round.

About 10 o'clock the cannonading ceased gradually, and soon perfect quiet reigned again. I remained at my post till 1·45 A.M., when I was relieved by the order of the General; the whole force remained under arms all night, even the General rested only on a cover under the two Maxim guns in front of the Emperor's tent. The remainder of the night passed off well, and everyone was glad to have escaped certain death. But we have as yet no assurance that the wretch (*i.e.*, Bu Amara) will not return; for at present, there being no moon, he will try again to destroy the Mahalla; but the rascal had better take care; it shall not be in vain that I get my guns in order and filled with fresh ammunition. We intend to give them some trouble within the next few days or that gang might become too insolent. You, gentlemen, will no doubt say that it is not necessary for me to risk my life in so slight a cause; but "Nur dem Mütigen gehört die Welt" is my favourite proverb. We Germans fear God and nothing else in the world. Now I conclude my despatch about the two fights I took part in.

As yet no one knows when we leave here or where we shall be ordered to; but one thing is certain, the position of the Mahalla is at present most grave, it being continually in danger of an attack and destruction. But we will be on our guard to prevent such a thing, for then all would be lost.

No. 19.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 7. Confidential.) *Tangier, January* 12, 1904.

My Lord,

HAVING noticed in the Spanish newspapers that a former Cabinet Minister had stated that a submarine cable was to be laid between Tangier and Cadiz by a French Company, I inquired of the Spanish Minister whether he knew anything of this project.

M. de Cologan said that he was a little vague on the subject. He was aware that it was proposed to establish submarine communication between Tangier and Cadiz, and he had heard some rumours that it was a French enterprise, possibly in connection with the cable which went from Senegal to Cadiz viâ the Canaries. He had, however, no definite information to give me.

He added that he understood that it was the intention of his Government not to repair the cable between Tangier and Tarifa, but to lay one between Tangier and Ceuta, which, owing to running with the current, would be less liable to breakages. He also believed that it was intended to prolong the Melilla-Chaffarinas cable to Nemours and thus join on to the French cable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 20.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 8.) *Tangier, January* 16, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed by the Legation banker that a fresh Contract for the loan, which is being proposed by M. Maurel, of Paris, arrived here the other day. The conditions of the loan have been considerably modified from those which were originally proposed. The loan is to be for 25,000,000 fr. nominal and 20,000,000 fr. cash; but no money will be paid over to the Sultan till two months have elapsed after the signature of the Contract. The loan is to be repayable in fifty years by quarterly repayments, which will commence two years after the Contract has been signed. The interest is to be 6 per cent., and will be paid from the Customs revenues of Tangier, Dar-al-Baida, and Mogador. Agents will be appointed by the contractors of the loan to reside at the above-mentioned ports and to receive daily accounts from the Customs officials.

Mr Abensur stated that the Contract would have to be translated, and that he did not propose to forward it immediately to Fez, as there were some points which were not very clear and which would require further explanation. Mr. Abensur added that M. Maurel had stated in his letter that the project had the approval of the Quai d'Orsay.

Mr. Abensur said that, so far as he could ascertain, the French Legation had received no instructions to press the matter, and that the French Minister had told his informant that he did not wish to interfere in the matter as it was one which concerned the interested parties alone. I inquired why two months were to elapse before the Sultan received any advances, and Mr. Abensur said that he presumed this delay was required in order to give time to float the loan in the public market. I asked whether any measures were proposed in the event of the Moorish Government making default in the punctual payment of the interest, and Mr. Abensur replied that 7 per cent. was to be charged on all outstanding payments. Mr. Abensur stated that there was an "Article Additionnel" to the Contract, which M. Maurel hoped that the Sultan might be persuaded to accept. It was to the effect that His Majesty should authorize the lenders, when the time for commencing the repayments of the three existing loans arrived, to issue bonds for 30,000,000 fr. Mr. Abensur supposed that this was with a view of enabling the Sultan to repay the three existing loans.

The Tangier Customs cannot be regarded as any security. I inquired yesterday of one of the Customs officials, who is the confidential agent of the Finance Minister and disposed to take a most cheerful view, and to induce others to do so, of the financial resources of the Government, and he admitted that the Tangier Customs had to pay about 30,000 dollars a-month on account of the Tangier and Tetuan garrisons, or 90,000 dollars quarterly. The service of the three existing loans requires at the present rate of exchange 90,000 dollars quarterly: so that 180,000 dollars in all have to be paid every quarter from these revenues. In 1902, which was a prosperous year for trade, the gross quarterly revenue of the Tangier Customs was only about 130,000 dollars, leaving a deficit of 50,000 dollars.

I may add that the same official stated that there need be no anxiety as to the financial condition of this country. The Government had considerable hoards of gold which had been collected by present and previous Sultans, and that even if there were some delay, which he was not prepared to admit, in the collection of internal taxes, the Customs revenues would furnish ample means for meeting the sums due for payment of interest of loans of a larger amount than those which had been already arranged. The difficulty which had recently arisen in regard to the payment of the last quarter's interest was purely accidental and would not recur. He had not received in time the remittances which he had expected from the other coast towns, but now instalments had arrived. The amount, it is true, was only 3,000*l.* (I have good grounds for believing that it was in reality 1,700*l.*), but more, doubtless, would reach him before long. The Government desired a loan merely as a measure of precaution, as they did not wish to encroach on their gold reserves.

The existence of these gold mines has often been mentioned, but I am quite unable to state whether they do exist in reality. It is unfortunate if they are available that they have not been utilized in the present time of stress and anxiety. There were several points in the situation on which it would have been of interest to obtain some enlightenment, but the Customs official was unable or indisposed to give me any information regarding them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 21.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 16, 1904.

A FRENCH sailing vessel, the "Pauline," was lately wrecked on the Moorish coast, between Casablanca and Mazagan, at a point just to the north of the Azimoor River, in the district of Chtooka. The crew of seven men managed to get ashore, but were met by the natives who robbed them of everything they possessed, and when they made some show of resistance threatened them with their guns. The natives also completely plundered the vessel. The Governor of Chtooka district was present during the occurrence, but appears to have made no effort to restrain his followers or to protect the sailors. The latter found their way subsequently to Mazagan.

The French Minister told me that he had made serious representations to the Sultan's Deputy here; and had requested that a Moorish official should be at once sent done to Mazagan to inquire into the matter, and to cause the arrest of the Governor

and the guilty parties. Hadj Mohammed Torres readily agreed to this request, remarking at the same time that no authority existed in the districts between Casablanca and Mazagan.

The French cruiser "Galilee," happened to be in Tangier Bay, as she is searching for a missing French transport the "Vienne"; and as she is under orders to proceed to Madeira and the Azores in her quest of the "Vienne," the French Minister embarked the Moorish official on board her, and asked the captain to call in at Casablanca for the French Consul, who should be landed with the Moorish official at Mazagan. The "Galilee" proceeded on her voyage last evening.

The French Minister trusts that he will be able to effect the arrest and punishment of the guilty parties, though there may be some little difficulty in apprehending them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 22.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 17, 1904.

THE latest reports which I have received from the coast indicate that affairs are for the present more tranquil, and that the peasantry are occupied with their ploughing operations. One or two tribes in the neighbourhood of Dar-al-Baida have sent in deputations to the Governor of that town with offers of submission, and the alarm which recently existed at that port seems to have passed away.

Several provincial Governors have returned from Fez to resume their posts, and they may be able to maintain more order than their deputies have succeeded in doing. I am informed that these Governors state that they paid the Moorish Government considerable sums of money for continuance in or nomination to their posts, and they will presumably now endeavour to reimburse themselves for this outlay. Should they do so there will not improbably be a renewal of disorder.

The Pretender is remaining seemingly inactive at Taza, but it is rumoured that his lieutenants are active in enlisting partizans throughout the eastern districts, while the Sultan's forces in these parts are, it is said, rapidly diminishing in numbers. The close of the ploughing season may lead to some fresh developments.

The Sultan has received at Fez a reinforcement of some 900 tribesmen from Tafilelt, composed both of horse and foot. This force had to make a long détour to reach Fez, and are now encamped in the neighbourhood of the town. They were collected by the Sultan's uncle, who is Governor of Tafilelt. Their maintenance will be an additional charge on the Moorish Treasury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 23.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 17, 1904.

I HAVE been furnished confidentially with a copy of the draft French Loan Contract, and I have the honour to transmit it herewith to your Lordship.

A copy is being translated and forwarded to Fez, so that the Moorish Government may examine its conditions and return it with any observations they may wish to make. It is not likely that the reply from the Moorish Government will arrive here earlier than the first week in February; communications would then have to be made with Paris and the first week in February; communications would then have to be made with Paris and then, even if all goes smoothly, a Contract ready for signature would not be here till the end of that month, and would not be returned here from Fez ratified and with the necessary letters of authorization before the middle of March. I mention these dates as in the most favourable circumstances it does not appear probable that the Moorish Government would be in a position to draw on Paris till the end of March, and their present needs are very pressing.

Your Lordship will observe that the agents of the contractors, whose names are left blank, and are not, I believe, known here, are not only to receive daily accounts but a share, a fifth I presume, of the customs revenues of Tangier, Dar-al-Baida, and Mogador. As I have explained in a former despatch the Tangier Customs are already more than pledged for the service of the three existing loans and for local requirements. I beg leave to inclose a schedule of the gross revenues of all the customs for 1902, a prosperous year for trade. These data I gather from the Consular Trade Reports, and they are, I think, fairly approximate. A fifth of the Dar-al-Baida and Mogador revenues would only give about 29,000*l.*, and as 60,000*l.* would be required the balance would have to be made up by taking about a-half of the above revenues or by supplying the deficiency from other ports, which already have to make up, in order to pay the interest on the three existing loans, the deficiencies of the Tangier Customs.

By the draft Contract six months would elapse before the Moorish Government had drawn the whole of the 20,000,000 fr. as their drawings are limited to a little over 3,000,000 fr. monthly. Presumably they would endeavour to discount bills in advance. There is no clause in the Contract stating that the Moorish Government would have to wait for two months after the signature of the Contract before drawing their first instalments, but I am informed that this is to be explained in a private letter.

The cash which the Moorish Government would eventually have in hand would be of a larger amount than that which they would obtain from the London project; and it seems to me unfortunate, in the interest of the European creditors of the Government, that some proviso is not inserted for repaying some of their more pressing obligations. To give the Moorish Government a perfectly free hand in the disposal of so large a sum is dangerous, as they are rarely wise in their expenditure of ready money.

The clauses of the draft Contract do not, I think, call for any other observations as they are sufficiently explicit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Draft French Loan Contract.

ARTICLE 1. La Banque s'engage à tenir à la disposition du Maghzen une somme de 20,000,000 fr. or effectifs, contre remise de 50,000 fr. obligations de 500 fr.; cette somme pourra être retirée sur simple cheque ou autrement aux caisses de la Banque sans que le retrait puisse être supérieur par mois à 3,333,333 fr., à moins de convention contraire.

Art. 2. Le taux d'intérêt est fixé à 6 pour cent, la somme correspondant annuellement aux intérêts et à l'amortissement, soit 1,586,107 fr., augmentée des frais de transport à Paris sera payée en or par trimestre échu, le 31 Mars, 30 Juin, 30 Septembre, et 31 Décembre de chaque année entre les mains du représentant de la Banque , sous réserve de ce qui est dit à l'Article 6.

Art. 3. L'amortissement du capital commencera après deux ans révolus à partir de la date du Contrat, et s'effectuera dans un délai de cinquante années; le Maghzen s'interdit le droit d'opérer la conversion du taux d'intérêt ou le remboursement par anticipation avant une période de dix ans.

Art. 4. Le paiement du capital et des intérêts de cet emprunt est garanti en général par toutes les ressources et revenus dont le Gouvernement Marocain pourra disposer.

Art. 5. Le Gouvernement Marocain affecte en outre à titre de garantie spéciale, en paiement des intérêts et de l'amortissement du présent emprunt les revenus de toutes les douanes du Maroc jusqu'à concurrence de 20 pour cent.

Art. 6. En vue d'assurer le fonctionnement de cette garantie spéciale le Gouvernement Marocain s'engage à accréditer auprès du Chef des Douanes de Tanger, Casablanca, et Mogador le représentant de la Banque désigné par cette dernière à l'effet de percevoir au fur et à mesure les encaissements des douanes la part proportionnelle indiquée dans le précédent Article. Le Sultan donne, par la présente, ordre au Chef des Umana de chacun de ces ports de remettre à ce représentant tous les jours l'état des recettes effectuées dans la journée et de lui verser chaque jour la totalité des sommes encaissées jusqu'à concurrence de la somme proportionnelle nécessaire pour assurer le service (intérêts et amortissements) de l'emprunt.

Art. 7. Si à la fin du trimestre le total des sommes perçues journellement dans les trois ports est inférieur au montant nécessaire au service de l'emprunt, soit 396,527 fr.,

le Sultan donne dès à présent ordre à son Gouvernement de compléter les paiements ainsi perçus, et ce au moyen de ses autres ressources. En tout cas, la somme échue et non payée sera productive elle-même d'intérêts au taux de 7 pour cent.

Art. 8. En représentation de l'engagement pris par la Banque en vertu de l'Article 1er ci-dessus, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan crée et remets à la Banque une autorisation, qui est annexée au présent Contrat, à l'effet de créer 50,000 obligations de 500 fr. chacune. Ces obligations jouiront de tous les droits stipulés aux termes des Articles précédents.

Article Additionnel.—Le Sultan concède, en outre, à la Banque la faculté qu'il lui appartiendra d'exercer, dans le délai d'un an et demi à partir de la signature du présent Contrat, d'émettre successivement, et par séries de 10,000,000 fr. au minimum, un emprunt supplémentaire pouvant aller jusqu'à 30,000,000 fr.

Cet emprunt serait représenté par des obligations du même type que les précédentes, et seraient remises à la Banque dans les mêmes conditions que celles prévues par les Articles précédents.

Cet emprunt ponrrait être destiné à opérer le remboursement des trois emprunts de 22,500,000 fr. contractés par le Sultan en Angleterre, Espagne, et en France antérieurement au présent emprunt, le surplus après ce remboursement devant être remis au Gouvernement Marocain.

Il est expressément convenu par les présentes qu'en cas de réalisation de cette dernière opération, la garantie sur les douanes serait étendue proportionnellement au chiffre de l'emprunt nouveau, et, en outre, que le système de garantie défini dans les Articles 6 et 7 serait appliqué à la douane des autres ports.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

SCHEDULE of Gross Customs Receipts from Import and Export Duties for 1902.

	£
Tangier	80,000
Tetuan	5,600
Dar-al-Baida	101,258
Larniche..	40,150
Mazagan..	73,296
Mogador..	44,279
Rabat	19,942
Saffi	36,531
Total	401,056

No. 24.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 10.) *Tangier, January* 23, 1904.
(Telegraphic.) P.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 261 of the 25th ultimo.

A letter from Mr. Consul Maclean to the Anglo-Jewish Association in London is being forwarded by bag. It appeals for assistance for 1,200 Jews rendered homeless and penniless by pillage of Statt. About 2,000*l.* is required, and local efforts are insufficient. Funds could be sent to Mr. Maclean. Owing to the urgent need and the considerable time taken by letters, might I suggest that the Association be informed of the appeal?

No. 25.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 26.)

(No. 12.) *Tangier, January* 20, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by some British traders and importers at Mogador relative to the losses which they have incurred, and are incurring, owing to the depreciation of the new silver

currency in this country. I am afraid that the depreciation has increased since the date of letter, and I fear that the grave inconvenience caused to trade will have serious consequences to merchants not only at Mogador, but throughout the country.

I have informed the signatories of the letter that the question of the depreciation of Moorish silver money has been occupying the serious attention of the Diplomatic Body and that the foreign Representatives are urging the Moorish Government to accept the new silver currency in payment of export duties; and I have added that I understand that negotiations, which I trust will have a satisfactory issue, are in progress between the Moorish Government and the contractors for suspending further deliveries of the new silver coins.

Your Lordship will observe that the writers of the letter express the hope that they will have the support of this Legation in recovering from the Moorish Government the amount of their losses. There is a good deal to be said in support of this view, but I have not alluded to the point in my reply, as I have some doubts whether such a claim could be rightly pressed. Should your Lordship consider that there would be good grounds for presenting such a request, I would place myself again in communication with the merchants with the view of obtaining the necessary details. The claim would have to be made not only on behalf of the Mogador mercantile community, but in favour of all British traders, and this would entail a very heavy demand on the Moorish Treasury, especially as all foreign traders would present similar requests to their respective Legations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 25.

British Traders of Mogador to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *December* 31, 1903.

THE undersigned British traders and importers of British goods are compelled, most reluctantly, to invite your attention to the grave and critical situation created by the unforeseen depreciation in the coin of this realm.

The main facts are doubtless in your possession. Some few months ago a new issue of "Azzizi" silver was put into circulation by, or at any rate for account of, the Moorish Government.

These coins were issued at par with Alfonso money. Hitherto the various Hassani coins in circulation had passed, as a legal tender, at par with Alfonso's, or the difference in purchasing power was so trifling as to cause no serious prejudice to trade.

Consequently, all contracts, sales, &c., were made in "dollars," which might be paid in one currency or the other. You are also aware, probably, that nearly all imported merchandise, such as tea, cotton goods, Birmingham ware, &c., is sold at from two to three months' credit. Prices were accordingly fixed two months ago at the average rate of exchange on Europe, which was about 37 per cent. premium on sterling.

These debts are now becoming due, and our customers are proffering in payment "Azzizi" coins which to-day stand at a discount of 20 per cent. as compared with Alfonso's, exchange on Europe having risen to 66 per cent. premium on sterling. Thus we have, in round figures, to write off a loss—a visible loss—of 30 per cent. on all our working capital, so far as imports are concerned. It is perhaps needless to add that, the purchasing value of our reserves of cash having depreciated in like manner, we have had (or some of us have had) to invest in produce at rates which show a probability of further loss, rather than retain coins which threaten to fall to their melting value.

Apart from the grievous prejudice caused to individual traders on this side, you will understand that all British trade with this country has suffered a severe blow; and unless measures are promptly adopted to remedy the present state of affairs, it is more than probable that half the Morocco customers of British firms will be plunged into bankruptcy.

The trade in imports is at a complete standstill. Merchants wishing to remit to England in produce are unable to do so, the growers of almonds, oil, &c., refusing to take "Azzizi" coins at any price.

In view of the fact that, in issuing its coins at par with Alfonso's, the Moorish Government made a profit of about 90 per cent., yet now refuses to accept its own

coins in payment of its own export dues, and is apparently unable to sustain their face value as a legal tender, we beg most solemnly to protest against the said Government, against all whom it may concern, for the losses we have already sustained, and for any further losses which may arise to ourselves and to our business friends in the United Kingdom, from the recent issue of coins unguaranteed by the Moorish Treasury.

We respectfully submit to you that the Moorish Government has not only violated the principles of political economy, but has committed a cruel outrage upon the public in flooding the seaports with these coins, at an enormous profit to itself. We therefore trust to have your support on behalf of ourselves and of our friends in England, in recovering from the said Government the amount of our losses, which can be proved by our books and by public registers showing the depreciation in the value of the Government coins.

We have, &c.
(Signed) A. S. FARACHE (*Hon. Sec.*),
And sixteen others.

No. 26.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 12.) *Tangier, January* 27, 1904.
(Telegraphic.) P.

IN consequence of the authorities issuing an edict compelling the people of Morocco City to accept new bronze coinage at a certain rate, while the authorities themselves, as well as the country people, refused to take it, riots occurred at that place on the 20th instant. Owing to the withdrawal of the edict by the authorities and their promise to levy no town dues or taxes for the present, the riots have now ceased and some of the wrongdoers have been arrested.

Although the Governor has apologized for the desecration of the European cemetery which took place, and has also promised to repair damages, I propose to ask the foreign Representatives here to address a letter to the Moorish Government requesting them to punish the guilty persons, and, at the same time, to hold an enquiry into the matter relating to the cemetery.

No. 27.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 14.) *Tangier, January* 23, 1904.
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that the British Vice-Consul at Mazagan states that the Governor of Shtooka has arrived there with six tribesmen, five of whom were identified by the master of the French vessel "Pauline" as having taken part in the pillage of that vessel. These men were imprisoned. The French Consul at Dar-el-Baida is now in Mazagan, and will now open an inquiry into the matter in conjunction with the Moorish official who was dispatched from Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 28.

Mr. E. Forwood to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 3.)

Morocco House, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C., February 2, 1904.

Dear Sir,

FOLLOWING up my previous communication on the subject of the debased Morocco currency, I now beg to hand you a letter recently received from my

Mogador agent. If you can in any way enforce upon the powers that be the necessity of at once putting the currency on a proper footing it will benefit the trade of the country, and consequently this country's traders enormously.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST FORWOOD.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Mr. H. Griffin to Messrs. Forwood Brothers and Co.

Mogador, January 7, 1904.

Dear Mr. Forwood,

I HAVE been much interested in some copies of correspondence I have just seen, and by which I am very pleased to learn that you have taken up the matter of the Morocco currency. This will be a far more serious question than what merchants imagine at present, and will certainly affect British trade a great deal, especially as regards Mogador.

At present, all business is at a standstill, and the custom-house stores are getting filled with imports, which merchants do not care to take over, as they cannot find any persons who will buy for cash. The only sales that take place are those that can be effected for cash, and consequently people only buy what they are in immediate want of and cannot do without, paying high prices for same.

The wholesale merchants can no longer give any credit to the retailers, as, with the constant fluctuations of the exchange for native currency, they prefer holding their goods than running the risk of heavy losses later on. Some of the firms have lost heavily of late through this, and I fear that, unless something is done soon to remedy the evil, we shall hear of many of them suspending payment and being unable to meet their liabilities.

As an example of the seriousness of this, take a firm who, only a month or two ago, sold about 3,000*l.* worth of goods, payable at sixty or ninety days' date for native currency, and for which exchange was fixed at 40 per cent. Now, when this amount is paid in and the merchant wishes to remit the sterling to London for payment of same he finds that exchange has run up to 70 or 80 per cent., which means a clear loss of about 600*l.* to him. You will readily see that there are very few, if any, merchants in Mogador who can stand losses of this nature, and, of course, in the end it will most likely be the British merchant who will be the sufferer.

This will, of course, affect you indirectly, as there will not be so many orders going forward, and imports will, of course, diminish greatly. On the other hand, you will also have to suffer in the export trade, for if merchants cannot sell imported goods they will have no cash to buy produce, and few, if any, of them have a large capital. You are probably aware that the bulk of the trade is done here on credit, but once this is stopped sales amount to a very small figure, and merchants dare not continue the system of credit sales unless they wished to be ruined at once.

Many of the merchants who had a capital of 2,000*l.* sterling outstanding in credits now find that this has dwindled down to half, and that they still risk a further loss if exchange goes on running up as at present, though many of them hold the native currency only.

The greatest difficulty, however, is that the country Arabs, hearing of the depreciation of native money, put it down solely to the new coin lately imported, and they absolutely refuse to accept payment in new coins unless they are paid at a much higher figure. This also gives them the idea that the Sultan and his Government is so weak that he cannot even get merchants to accept his money, though they readily accept the old native coins of Mulay Hassan.

The effect of this has been that, for the moment, many of the Arabs will bring no produce into our market, for on the one hand they find prices are increasing daily, in sympathy with exchange, and they are holding off until they can clearly see how far prices will advance.

Even the bare necessities of life are very scarce, and prices have risen to an exorbitant figure. The poor are suffering greatly, as their wages have not been increased on a par with the price of foodstuffs, and they can now only afford to buy what is necessary to keep life together.

At present I cannot form an opinion of what will be the ultimate result of the present currency, nor its effect on trade, but you can count on losing a lot of freight,

both outward and homeward, in the near future. So far, only a small amount of the new native coins have been put in circulation, and the effect has been most disastrous, and if, as I understand, a few more million dollars are placed in the country we may expect a severe blow to trade, and probably interior troubles amongst the natives.

If this hampering of trade is allowed to continue, through the circulating of coins whose value is fictitious, and solely to the benefit of the few persons who have obtained contracts for the supply of them, then it would not surprise me if the European intervention so much talked of lately really took place, in order to settle once and for all the monetary question; otherwise, if steps are not taken soon, trade will suffer a severe blow, and many of the merchants will be ruined.

Petitions and memorials have lately been sent forward by subjects of all nationalities to their respective Ministers and to the several Chambers of Commerce, setting forth all these particulars, and I sincerely hope that something may be done to ameliorate the present state of affairs.

I sincerely pray that we shall see a change before long, and that the New Year which has just begun will be a bright and prosperous one for you.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) HENRY GRIFFIN.

No. 29.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 6, 1904.

WITH reference to proposed French loan to Moorish Government.

A reply to the French proposals has been received here from Fez; but, before a decision is come to, the Moorish Government ask for further explanations regarding price of issue and guarantees. The undertaker of proposed loan here has referred these questions to Paris, and I am informed that the "Crédit Mobilier" is the bank on which he relies.

No. 30.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 15.)

Tangier, January 27, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit extracts from private letters addressed by Mr. Lennox, a missionary residing at Morocco city, to Mr. Consul Maclean, giving an account of some riots which occurred in that town on the 20th instant. Mr. Lennox is a man of cool judgment, and can be trusted to give an impartial account of what occurred.

The new bronze coinage has been ill-received by the people in the south of Morocco owing to its being of lighter weight than the one hitherto in currency; and the authorities have added to its unpopularity by refusing to accept it in payment of gate and town dues, and by fixing its relation with the silver dollar at a higher rate than was the case with the old bronze coinage.

The riots at Morocco city seem to have quieted down, apparently by the authorities conceding the demands of the townspeople, even to the length of freeing the population from payment of taxes and town dues till more prosperous times arrive.

The desecration of the European cemetery, and the violation of the tombs, if proved, require some serious notice, as it would be unwise to pass over the matter in silence. The Governor, it is true, has apologized for this incident, and has promised to make good all damages; but I propose to suggest to my colleagues that we should address a note to the Moorish Government requesting that an inquiry should be instituted, and that the guilty parties should be discovered and punished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Mr. Lennox to Consul Maclean.

Marrakesh, January 20, 1904.

I WROTE you a hurried note to-day by the French courier telling you of the excitement we have had over the bronze coin. It began on Monday by the country people refusing to accept it. Barley rose to 150 ducats and wheat to 300. Business ceased at these prices, and the people came to the Governor, Hadj Abdsalam. The sellers of butter, oil, &c., closed their shops too and came to Hadj Abdsalam. He and the Mohtassib (public market Superintendent) had a conference, and they sent to the grain market and to the shops saying that they were to sell at whatever prices they wished, but to take the new coin. The Rahamna tribe came and said if the new coin was to be forced upon them they would cease to bring in supplies, and start a market of their own outside.

Hadj Abdsalam does not appear to have used any force; no one was put in prison for not taking the new coin. Yesterday things were no better; no one would take the new coin, and many shops were closed. The people were all blaming Hadj Abdsalam and the Mohtassib for selling grain and oil and refusing the new coin, and also not allowing the dues and taxes to be paid in it. In the afternoon the Europeans came to our house, saying that they thought that there ought to be a protest sent to Hadj Abdsalam. We talked over matters, and Mr. Bert, who is Acting German Consular Agent, and myself were asked to represent the European Colony. We laid before Hadj Abdsalam the seriousness of the situation, how it was impossible to force this new coin upon the townspeople when the country people could not be forced to take it; also that it was very bad policy for him and the Mohtassib, also the Administrators, to refuse to take it themselves. Further, that as the popular opinion was that the Europeans had brought this into the country, we would be in great danger if the situation was not relieved in some way.

This morning the excitement reached the climax. An old man named Allal Bil Ahassen in the shoemaker's market, who appears to be a most influential man amongst them, rose up and declared for force; all the shoemakers followed him. Some say there was an attempt to collect taxes from them; others that this man heard that he was a marked man and about to be put in prison, but however it was, he appears to have been the ringleader. Instantly the whole town rose; excited crowds rushed through the streets, the bazaars, the fundaks and shops were closed. In a short time any shops found open were pillaged, the men at the gates were attacked for the money they had collected, the European cemetery was attacked, the gate burned, and the huts placed round it by the Governor for protection were burned too. Hadj Abdsalam and the Mohtassib returning from the Government House were severely stoned, hooted, and cursed by the mob. Jews were robbed and assaulted, but nothing serious occurred. They managed to take refuge in fundaks and shops. Fortunately, so far as I have heard no Europeans were found in the streets. The Jewry was closed at once, and the Jews were in great fear and alarm. In the afternoon there was a great crowd of boys went through the streets with a skull from our cemetery. There are only two graves in it, one of Mrs. Muir, and another of an old Spanish doctor. One of our men went out and could not get near it for the crowd, and they were busy pulling down the walls. I don't think we need put much stress upon this as meaning any outburst against Europeans, but more the work of boys and the rabble.

We have kept in the house all day, and some friends have come to watch over the night. I don't think we are in much danger, but, of course, it is difficult to say. During the afternoon the grain market and the shops were opened, and the shops [? streets] became quiet. Watchmen have been set at all the street gates, and the Government appear to be taking every means in their power to keep the peace.

It is a great pity Hadj Abdsalam and the Mohtassib did not give way on Monday. It is said that the Viceroy, Mulai-el-Afeed, advised them to do so, as they could not resist the people. I shall not close this until mail time to-morrow.

21*st, Thursday.*—We passed a quiet night in our district. In other parts of the town the crowd paraded the streets with a black flag about 7 o'clock, calling upon all true believers to join them and pillage the Jewry, at the penalty of their houses being demolished, but none joined them. The ringleader of the agitation, Allal Bil Ahassan, was persuaded to go to the Viceroy and explain his reasons for rising. He said food had become so dear, and the poor men were starving, and to make matters worse this coin was forced upon them, which the country and even the authorities would not take. He

demanded the withdrawal of the new coin, the suspension of all taxes and dues until better and more prosperous times. These terms were granted and he was pardoned. To-day he is exerting his influence to restore peace and good feeling, going round the markets urging the shopkeepers to open their shops. It is now 11, and there appears to be a good deal of unrest yet. The outside market has been broken up; the officials who collected the dues were forced to withdraw. There is difficulty about the gate dues. There will be a large influx of country people for the market and to see how things are, to seize the opportunity of spoil if the occasion rises. We keep in the house to-day, and use every precaution for our safety. Some say a Jew was killed, but it is difficult to learn definitely, but many were wounded and robbed.

I hope I shall be able to send you better news by next mail.

(Signed) A. LENNOX.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Mr. Lennox to Consul Maclean.

Marrakesh, January 22, 1904.

I AM glad to say that since I wrote to you yesterday the situation has improved very much, and now, as far as we can judge, the whole thing is over. After the row in the market yesterday a large number of boys and men were run into prison. This is the best thing that could have been done.

Extra guards were put on last night in all the streets, lest the large number of country people who had come in, having heard of the row, should cause any disturbance; but the night passed quietly. The Governor sent to me yesterday, begging forgiveness for all that had been done to the cemetery, and said that it would be all repaired at once. He had issued orders to the builders to start work, and we would receive every satisfaction.

All Europeans are well, and there is only one Jew missing; but I heard he was severely wounded, and in the house of a Moorish friend.

(Signed) A. LENNOX.

No. 31.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 16.)

My Lord, *Tangier, January* 27, 1904.

THE latest reports which I have received from the coast show signs of considerable agitation in some districts.

Mr. Consul Maclean states that there has been some fighting in the neighbourhood of Daralbaida between the Governor of Oolad Said and the disaffected portions of that tribe. The Governor appears to have had the advantage. There have also been disturbances in Fokra, a district close to Daralbaida, The Governor of Statt has not yet returned to that town, which was recently pillaged, but his Deputy, who has resumed jurisdiction, seems to be able to maintain order.

Mr. Vice-Consul Neroutsos reports that the neighbourhood of Rabat is now quiet, but that to the north and east of Mehedia the country is unsafe.

Mr. Vice-Consul Hunot reports from Saffi that the Dukalla district is in a very disturbed condition. He states that, "in fact, the whole of Dukalla is rising to a rebellious state;" and he adds that there is considerable agitation among the Houz tribes. Mr. Hunot further reports that "Kaid Omar-el-Skuttam has been arrested in Fez. His Deputy killed five of Kaid M'Tonga's men, who were sent with forty horsemen to arrest him. The Kaid of Amzemis, who is at Court, has been removed. His Deputy, who barely escaped being taken, has fled to Morocco city: Kaid Bil Kadi, father-in-law of Ci-el-Menebhi, who was Kaid over the greater part of Hummer, has also left his post. The whole of Menebhi's Kaids are being persecuted, and others will probably replace them."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 32.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January 30, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the name of the Diplomatic Body, requesting that an inquiry be held into the desecration of the Christian cemetery at Morocco city by a band of rioters on the 20th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Mohammed Abdelkerim Ben Sliman.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, January 28, 1904.*

THE Diplomatic Body has been informed that during the riots which occurred at Morocco city during the 19th and 20th instant a band of evildoers destroyed the wall and the gate of the Christian cemetery, and even went so far as to violate and pillage one of the tombs, proceeding to parade the streets carrying a skull at the end of a reed. The Diplomatic Body consider that such misdeeds demand an exemplary punishment; and I am desired by my colleagues to call the most serious attention of the Moorish Government to what has occurred.

It is true that the Governor expressed his regrets, and is taking measures for rebuilding the wall and the gate; but my colleagues and myself consider that it is impossible to pass over in silence acts of the nature above described, and we request that an inquiry be instituted without delay at Morocco city, in order to discover the culprits and inflict on them the punishment which they have deserved.

Peace, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 33.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 10, 1904.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 17 of the 30th ultimo, and I approve the terms of the note which you addressed on the 28th of that month to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs, in the name of the Diplomatic Body, on the subject of the desecration of the Christian cemetery at Morocco city.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 34.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 5, 1904.*

THERE has been practically no change in the situation during the past week, and the reports as to the movements and intentions of the Pretender are vague and contradictory. It appears probable that he is at Taza, and the French Minister tells me that there are grounds for believing that he is still suffering from the effects of his wound and unable to take any active exercise. M. Saint René Taillandier understood that a French adventurer, a M. Delbrel, had paid the Pretender several visits, and was now endeavouring to engage the services of a French doctor to accompany him to Taza. This would show

that the Pretender was anxious as to his own condition, and his prolonged inactivity would be thereby explained.

On the other hand the Moorish Government are remaining quite passive; and are circulating reports that the insurrection has been completely suppressed, and that affairs have returned to their normal condition. These statements deceive few, and obtain little or no credence. The forces at present at the disposal of the Moorish Government are not sufficient to do more than garrison Fez, and would be unable to make any forward movement; while the attenuated garrison at Oojdah, in its present distressed condition, can scarcely be considered an efficient factor in any active operations.

News from the coast and the south of Morocco has been scanty since the date of my last despatches; but I understand that peace has been completely restored at Morocco city. The violation and desecration of a Christian tomb has, I am told, caused some sensation throughout the country, and unless the authorities show, in a decided form, their stern displeasure at such outrages, the effect on the attitude of natives towards Christians will be unfortunate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 35.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 5, 1904.*

THE financial situation in this country is increasing in complexity, and unless the Moorish Government are able to procure some assistance from abroad it is difficult to see in what manner they will succeed in meeting the current military and administrative expenses or discharge some of their more pressing obligations.

I may mention, as an instance of the straits to which the Government are reduced, the fact that in order to pay the troops at Fez they sold bills on the Customs here to several merchants in that city who are desirous of remitting money to Europe. These bills, drawn at sight or at three or four days' notice, were duly presented to the Commissioners of Customs here, but, as the latter have no funds, the bills remain unpaid. Again, the Commander of the garrison at Oojdah also drew bills on the Sultan's Deputy here, but as the Treasury of the latter is empty the bills were returned to their place of origin. The coast ports which have been called upon to send money here are unable or unwilling to do so, and the salaries of the European employés of the Government which were paid by the Customs here during the stay of these employés at Tangier are now four months in arrears.

I was informed this morning that the reply of the Moorish Government to the French draft Contract for a loan was received yesterday. The Minister of Finance stated that he required some further explanations. He did not understand, he observed, why the Moorish Government should pay for 25,000,000 fr. and only receive 20,000,000 fr. in cash; and he further remarked that on the expiration of the loan in fifty years the Moorish Government would have paid 80,000,000 fr. in all. He added that he did not understand Article 4 of the draft Contract which stated that all the resources and revenues of the Moorish Government were to serve as guarantees for interest and sinking funds.

These objections on the part of the Moorish Government will cause some delay in the negotiations, and they came as a surprise to the negotiators who were of opinion, for which indeed there are substantial grounds, that the embarrassments of the Government would compel them to accept any terms without cavil.

I am told that the bank on whom M. Maurel relies for support is the Crédit Mobilier of Paris; but the confidential agent of the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas here has intimated to the undertakers of the Loan Contract in this town that he is convinced no serious financial house will look favourably on the transaction, and that without such countenance it was not likely that the project would reach maturity.

The negotiations for the suspension or cancellation of the silver coinage contracts do not appear to be making any progress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 36.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 78. Confidential.)

Paris, February 11, 1904.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the telegram from His Majesty's Minister in Tangier, No. 13, of the 6th instant, of which your Lordship did me the honour to forward me a copy, it may be worth mentioning that the Crédit Mobilier, referred to as the bank on which the undertaker of the proposed loan to the Moorish Government relies, is a house of scarcely second-rate standing, and is not thought by persons competent to judge to be capable of finding the amount of money contemplated.

M. Maurel, who is alluded to by Sir Arthur Nicolson as the principal mover in the undertaking, appears to be little known in financial circles here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 37.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 20.)

Foreign Office, February 17, 1904.

Sir,

THE Spanish Ambassador spoke to me again to-day upon the subject of French designs in Morocco. His Excellency thought that France might take advantage of the present tension in the Far East in order to assert herself more vigorously in the West. I said that I had observed no signs of any increased activity on the part of France in this direction, but, as I had more than once admitted to his Excellency, there had certainly been discussions between the French and British Governments in regard to the future of Morocco. Throughout these we had insisted upon the necessity of due consideration for the interests of Spain. I was given to understand that so long ago as 1902 the matter had been mentioned at Paris by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Spanish Ambassador at that Court. Nothing had yet been settled as between ourselves and France, and I assured his Excellency that he would find me ready at any time to discuss the question freely with him should he desire to do so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 38.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 21.)

Tangier, February 10, 1904.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, in regard to the recent riots at Morocco city and the desecration of the Christian cemetery.

I do not send the inclosures in Mr. Maclean's despatch as the substance of them has been embodied in his report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 38.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 19.)

Dar-el-Baida, February 1, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of further letters I have received from the missionaries in Marrakesh on the subject of the riot.

On the 22nd ultimo the authorities seized the ringleader, who was very roughly handled and thrown into prison, notwithstanding that he had been promised a pardon.

If the end justifies the means the authorities would seem to have acted wisely as the rioters were immediately cowed and fled to different sanctuaries. The authorities then sent for all the Notables of the city who were surrounded by a guard and harangued by the Viceroy. This had a good effect, and the city assumed its normal tranquillity.

There seems to be no doubt that during the riot the grave of an English missionary lady, Mrs. Muir, was opened and the coffin removed. The skull was paraded through the streets, and the rest of the skeleton, with the coffin, was burnt.

In a previous despatch I have said that the population of Marrakesh is not usually fanatical, but fanaticism is dormant, as is the case with all Mahommedan peoples, and I think the cemetery became the object of the frenzy of the rioters because the latter believed it was by the advice of Europeans that they were being compelled to accept the new bronze coin. Fortunately, the foreign residents in Marrakesh suffered no personal injury, and this is due, not only to their discreet behaviour during the riot, but in a greater degree to the rioters' fears of the consequences of injuring or molesting a European.

This prestige is a particularly valuable possession for those who live in the interior at a distance from the coast towns, and it constitutes their only security, so I feel strongly that serious notice should be taken of the damage done to the cemetery and the outrage committed on the remains of Mrs. Muir.

I submit that it is desirable that something should be done that will impress the native population.

The local authorities have demonstrated that they are not powerless, and I have little doubt that they are in a position to enforce any reasonable demand for satisfaction.

I would respectfully suggest that an investigation should be made with the object of discovering the actual perpetrators of the outrage in the cemetery, so that their punishment may be insisted on.

I am further of opinion that the Governor of Marrakesh should be invited to formally express his regret to someone nominated by you.

The walls of the cemetery are being rebuilt by the authorities, but I think moral as well as material damages should be demanded.

Since writing the above, I have received a further letter from Mr. Lennox, copy of which I inclose, and from this I learn that since the defeat of the Sultan's forces before Taza the boys of Marrakesh have become accustomed to curse Europeans and an anti-Christian feeling has existed. This is the first time this has been brought to my notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. MACLEAN.

No. 39.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 22.)

Tangier, February 10, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-el-Baida in regard to the discontent occasioned by certain measures of the Government in respect to the new copper coinage. I am given to understand that the amount of coinage contracted for is not large, and probably no trouble would have arisen had the authorities not arbitrarily fixed the value at too high a rate and had they accepted the new coins themselves. The new bronze coins are smaller than the ones previously in circulation, and bear a different superscription. They were consequently viewed with some mistrust at first by the peasantry, and this mistrust was increased by the measures of the authorities. It was manifestly an untenable position for the authorities to adopt in compelling the people to accept coins at an abnormal value, and then refusing to receive the same coins in payment of local taxes and dues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 21.)

Sir, *Dar-el-Baida, February* 3, 1904.

YOU are aware that the riot at Marrakesh was caused by the Makhzen compelling the natives to accept the bronze coin (locally known as "soldi") in payment for produce, &c., at the rate of 14 ducats to the dollar.

Similar discontent, arising from the same cause, is manifest in Mogador, Saffi, Mazagan, Azemmur, and Rabat.

It is the most unpopular act the Makhzen has committed since the death of the late Sultan.

In Marrakesh the local authorities were forced to withdraw their orders about this money, and I have little doubt that similar steps will have to be adopted at other places, as the natives decline to become victims of what is little less than robbery.

It is a matter that would only concern the Makhzen and the people were it not that there is a popular belief that the bronze money is the device of foreigners, and it is the latter who reap the unpopularity.

Signs are not wanting that unpopularity is developing into fanatical dislike, and it is becoming not uncommon for a Moor to spit as he passes a European in towns where for years past the latter has been able to move about without attracting any particular notice. The fact is that local officials ascribe to foreign exploitation everything that is unhappy in their Government. For example, in conversation yesterday with the Basha of Dar-el-Baida, we were speaking about the bronze money and the depreciation in value of the Moorish silver coins, and his Excellency remarked that it was all the fault of British, German, and French Companies who asked for orders to make money. He was sincerely astonished when I replied that traders were always keen in soliciting trade and the fault lay with the Government, and particularly with the Finance Minister, whose Department it concerned.

The Government having committed the error of attempting to force the "soldi" on the people have now the choice of two evils, to submit to their orders being disregarded, or to enforce them. In either case it is inevitable that the weakness of the Makhzen will be exposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MACLEAN.

No. 40.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 10, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean in regard to the Jewish families who have taken refuge in Dar-al-Baida in consequence of the pillage of the town of Setat. The number of refugees appears to be considerably less than was originally stated: still the difficulty of supporting the 600 who are dependent on relief is no doubt a great strain on local resources. I have brought the matter unofficially to the notice of the Moorish Government, and have suggested that measures be taken for relieving the refugees and restoring them to their homes as soon as possible and under proper safeguards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 22.)

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, February* 4, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge, with my most respectful thanks, the receipt of your despatch No. 8 of the 23rd ultimo, relative to the case of the distressed Jewish families who are refugees from Setat.

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There was a meeting of the Consular Body on the 22nd ultimo to consider the request of the "Comité des Secours" that we should express our approval of a subscription being opened.

The majority of my colleagues were not of opinion that it was properly a matter for our treatment, but we all agreed that if a letter was received giving particulars of the distress, each of us would write to his Minister to pray that the case of the sufferers should be brought to the notice of the Makhzen with the view of the latter granting relief.

In the meantime, by my advice to the "Comité des Secours," a general subscription was opened locally, and this has produced a sum of over 5,000 pesetas.

It is plain that this money cannot support 600 refugees for any length of time, and it is a puzzle to me how we can keep them alive until further assistance is received.

The Director of the "Ecole de l'Alliance Israélite" has appealed to his Board in Paris, and I have written on behalf of the "Comité des Secours" to the "Anglo-Jewish Association in London.

On the 1st February there was another meeting of the Consular Body, and although it was convened to discuss a different matter, the opportunity was seized to again bring forward the subject of the Setat refugees.

It was suggested that I should see the Basha of Dar-al-Baida, and ask his Excellency if he could give the refugees a daily ration until he could return them to Setat, and if he would arrange for their return.

His Excellency informed me that he could not give a "moona" without being authorized to do so by the Makhzen. He promised to consult with the Governor of Setat, and to write to Fez on the subject; and he asked me to address a letter to him which he would transmit. His Excellency further advised that Consular officers should bring the case before their respective Ministers.

I am in constant touch with the "Comité des Secours," and I believe that it is administrating the small fund at its disposal with wisdom. It comprises men who know exactly the minimum on which their poorer brethren can support existence. As far as possible the refugees have been divided into groups of seven, members of families being kept together, and the head of each group is given 2 dollars a-week for its support.

The Mellah and the Nowalas, in which the poorer Jews live, are normally unsanitary and overcrowded. The danger from a calamity from epidemic, which is always existent, is not lessened by the presence of these destitute refugees.

Besides the difficulty of feeding and sheltering these people, there is also the necessity of clothing them, and most of them have arrived here in an almost nude condition.

Under the above circumstances, I venture to hope that you will very kindly endeavour to impress upon the Moorish Government the necessity of giving immediate relief to these people, and at the same time to direct the local authorities to adopt suitable measures for restoring them to their homes in Setat.

It would be only just to indemnify them for the losses they have sustained through the Acting Governor of Setat having deserted his post and failed in his duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 41.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 11, 1904.

THE reports which I have received this week from the southern districts of Morocco, contain nothing of any special interest, though the Governors who have recently returned from Fez have not in all instances succeeded in re-establishing their position in their provinces, while the monetary difficulties, especially as regards the new copper coinage, appear to cause general discontent.

It is reported that serious trouble is brewing in the Sus, the details of which are not very clear; but the Government officials who have recently arrived in that province are said to have endeavoured to assert their authority by violent and treacherous means, and thereby aroused considerable agitation. Mr. Vice-Consul Madden in reporting on this subject observes "that the Sus was practically quite quiet

before the Government officials set the fire alight again. It is a suicidal policy to arouse the south, which has been quiet hitherto." With respect to another district, that of Shiedma, over a portion of which a brother of Ci El Menebhi was Governor, Mr. Madden writes as follows :—

"The district is disturbed by having Kaïd Hoban of Meskella made Kaïd in place of Kaïd Menebhi. The Moors are collecting and arming to oppose Kaïd Hoban, and have received promises of support from other districts. It is a great pity that a quiet district is not left alone, as the Moorish Government have no power to enforce their will against the peoples' will, and they suffer by loss of prestige in these attempts."

These incidents, I think, confirm the views I have held that Morocco is returning to a system of tribal Government independent of central authority. The tribes, if left alone by Government, will remain tranquil and willing to pursue in peace their ordinary avocations; varied during their leisure moments with occasional settlements of blood and inter-tribal feuds, and consequent raids and cattle lifting. But if the authorities endeavour to assert their position, the tribes resent such efforts and disorders ensue. This condition of affairs can scarcely be prolonged indefinitely.

I may add that the Government post at Cape Juby must be undergoing considerable hardships, as supplies of provisions and fresh water which are periodically sent thither from Mogador are now three and a-half months overdue. The authorities at Mogador have hitherto been unable to come to terms as to chartering a steamer to take down supplies.

In this neighbourhood the noted highwayman, Reissuli, with a fairly numerous following, has again commenced his depredations, and if unchecked, will render the road from here to Fez unsafe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 42.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February* 12, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Hastings inclosing a Report on the attitude of the tribes to the north and east of Fez towards the Moorish Government and the cause of the Pretender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Acting Vice-Consul Hastings to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Fez, February* 5, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your information, a Report made to me by one of the messengers sent among the tribes east of Fez, to discover their feelings towards the Pretender, and the support they would be likely to give him in the event of his renewing hostilities.

It will be observed that, according to the Report, only the tribes of Sinhaja, Reddo, Branes, Dsul, and Ghiatsa are with him at heart, the remainder either wishing to be neutral or being compelled by force to stand by him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALLY HASTINGS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Report of Said El Bernusi.

Fez, February 4, 1904.

I LEFT Fez on the 26th January and travelled to Arbatissa. On the second day I went to Ulad Bu Hsin, in Sinhaja Siflia; on the third day to Mherin, in Sinhaja Reddo; on the fourth day to Zazara, in Branes; on the fifth day to Ain Addis, in Tsul; on the sixth day to Ahl Tahir, Ghiatsa; on the seventh day to Megassa, Ghiatsa; on the eighth day to Beni Warain; on the ninth day to Es'sefali, Ulad el Hadj; and on the tenth day entered Fez.

At Arba Tissa I met two Kaïds of Jaafar (on the Pretender's side), and by them, and others in Hiayna, was told the following:—

The western half of Hiayna is with the Maghzen, together with Ulad Khaiyat and half the tribe of Ulad Skhel, and will obey the Sultan's orders, even to attacking the other half of Hiayna.

The latter (Eastern Hiayna), composed of Ulad Jobar, Ulad Abela, Ulad el Khadir (all part of Ulad Skhel), together with the tribes of Ulad Hammom, Mtalsa, Jaafar, Fokia, and Mherain, say they will take a neutral course.

If fighting occurs again, they will side neither with the Pretender nor with the Government, and will take refuge in the mountains close by them, but if attacked there, by either side, will defend themselves. They all acknowledge the presence of the Sultan at Fez.

At Ulad Bu Hsin, in Sinhaja Siflia the following was told me:—

The Sinhaja Siflia saw the Sultan on his recent expedition, and believed him to be really Abdelaziz, but fearing to be attacked by their neighbours, Sinhaja Reddo and Branes, if they acknowledge the Sultan, they outwardly say they are for the Pretender. In the event of hostilities, however, they will not help the Pretender with men, unless he comes through their country, and compels them to do so. They have given money to Uld Bu Amama (the Pretender's Khalifa), but have refused to help him in fighting against Jaiya.

I heard here that Uld Bu Amama had gone to Mezziat, and burned the house of Sid Manana el Mezziati, who is the Representative of the Maghzen there. The tribe of Mezziat are with Sinhaja Siflia in their feeling for the Pretender.

Uld Bu Amama has given to the Beni Zerual a letter from the Pretender, in which he says that he will burn their Zauia of Hamomi when he comes if they do not side with him. They have stoutly refused to do this, saying that until they get sure proof that he is really Mulai Mhemed they will help the Sultan and Government of whom they know something.

At Mherin, Sinhaja Reddo. In this tribe the feeling is strongly for the Pretender. They fought for him before, and are a mountain tribe who much resent the idea of the Government coming to their country and will fight against them. They never entered the Shereefian camp on the previous expedition. They have been ordered to contribute to the Pretender's Harka, and have promised to do so.

At Zazara in Branes. I was told that the Pretender had ordered the tribesmen to contribute the following:—(1.) 1,600 dollars in money. (2.) A certain number of Askar. (3.) Tribesmen to join the Harka. (4.) A certain quantity of wheat. They have replied. We will give you the money and the tribesmen for the Harka and we will make ready the mona for the Harka at Sidi Hamed Zorak, but we will not give the Askar nor will we send the wheat to Taza without payment or a written receipt and promise to pay for it.

On the whole, they are in favour of the Pretender and will help him.

At Ain Addis in Tsul, I heard that contributions of 1,600 dollars and men for the Harka had been promised when the fine weather should come. Eastern Tsul is strongly supporting the Pretender. I was told that Ulad Bekkar would give 200 dollars and a few men, and Maghrowa and Ulad Bu Rima a like amount.

These small tribes have no authority of their own, and are compelled to do what the big neighbouring tribes tell them.

In Ahl Tahir and Megassa (Ghiatsa), I learnt the same news, that contributions of men and money were promised like the others.

Ghiatsa is by far the greatest supporter of the Pretender, and will do anything for him.

The tribe of Meknassa, being charged with the keeping of the Pretender's stable, contributes nothing else. The rains in that country have caused a most wonderful crop of wheat to spring up very early and very rich.

Ulad Messaud of Howara are forced to acknowledge the Pretender, but do so through fear of him. The eastern half of Howara are at present with the Makhzen.

I was told that Guezenaya, Mtalsa and Beni Bu Yahia are now with the Government, but are treacherous and jump from one side to the other according as they are menaced.

At Beni Warain I found the people very indifferent to the Pretender, the west half at least inclined to favour the Government, but they too are not reliable and help

the side which pays them best. Beni Sadin, Beni Ezrali, and Ulad el Hadj are all Government tribes and adhere firmly to the Sultan. Jaiya is with Beni Zerual.

It is reported that after the Ide-El-Kebir the Pretender will again commence operations, but whether in the direction of Fez, Melilla, or Oojdah is not yet known.

Finally, I think the state of the tribes towards the Pretender is as follows:—

(1.) Beni Zerual, Jaiya, Sheraga, Ulad el Hadj, Beni Sadin, Beni Ezrali, Ulad Ayad, west half of Hiayna, and west half of Beni Warain are with the Government.

(2.) Sinhaja Siflia, east half of Hiayna, Mezziat and east half of Beni Warain favour neither side and don't wish to fight at all.

(3.) Sinhaja Reddo, Branes, Tsul, Ghiatsa, Maknessa, Ulad Bekkar, Ulad Bu Rima, and Messaud are at present with the Pretender, will give him money, men and mona, and still think him Mulai Mhemed.

(4.) Mtalsa, Guezenaya, East Howara are not to be depended upon.

The general feeling of all these tribes is that they wish for no interference from the Maghzen, though they do not all believe in the Pretender as Mulai Mhemed.

No. 43.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 20, 1904.*

LOANS to Moorish Government.

On 1st April the next instalment of interest on the existing loans raised in London, Paris, and Madrid, will fall due. Are steps being taken for providing the necessary funds? If this is not the case, you should convey a warning to the Moorish Government that adequate preparation must be made in time. If there should be a default, it would, in the present circumstances, be both disastrous to them and inconvenient for His Majesty's Government.

No. 44.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 21, 1904.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 7 of the 20th instant, relative to Moorish loans.

The Agent here of the Minister for Finance was warned by me some time ago that early preparations to meet the interest on loans due 31st March next should be made. This, he assured me, would be done; but no results are, as yet, visible. I will emphasize my warning to him again. The French loan is, I understand, being counted on by the Moorish Government, and I am informed that fresh proposals, containing easier terms for the Moorish Government, are to arrive to-morrow from Paris. About 500,000 dollars of the new silver coinage, which cannot be touched until the contractors have received payment of the sums due to them, are here in the hands of the Moorish Government. The interest on loans could be paid if part of this sum could be set free —say, a fifth of it; but it is possible an objection to this course might be raised by the German and French contractors. In order to repay Sir E. Cassel's advance of 13,500*l.*, the silver, which was placed as a guarantee with the Legation bankers, is being gradually sold by the Moorish Government.

No. 45.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdone.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February 23, 1904.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 14 of tho 21st instant regarding Moorish loans.

The Agent of the Minister of Finance informs me that he has no available funds here, and he expects none. I have spoken to him seriously as to the necessity of

having money on the 31st March in order to meet the interest then due, and he has promised to write to the Court to this effect. I am also pressing Finance Minister to take measures without delay, but owing to the Government being practically bankrupt, I do not anticipate he will be able to assist. I doubt if any reliance can be placed on French loan negotiations being completed before funds are required to meet interest. The silver coins deposited here are the only resources left, and I know that the Moorish Government have already drawn upon them without the knowledge of the contractors. This may be done again, although the consent of the contractors to their disposal has not yet been obtained.

This morning I was begged by His Shereefian Majesty's Commissioner here to urge the liberation of the English contractor's share of the deposit; I said I would speak to him on the matter, but declined to take the responsibility of pressing him. Mr. Abensur is ready, if the other contractors do likewise, to agree to this, but I doubt their doing so. Mr. Abensur is already owed 40,000*l.* by the Moorish Government.

No. 46.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received Febrnary 24.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic. P.) *Tangier, February 24, 1904.*

I AM informed by Kaid Sir H. Maclean that, on the 17th instant, Cid Mohammed Gabbas, His Shereefian Majesty's Minister for War, told him that a private letter had been written some time ago to the French Minister at Tangier by the Sultan, the contents of which were not communicated to His Majesty's Ministers. The reply from M. Delcassé, Cid Mohammed Gabbas stated, has now been received, and has been shown to the Ministers. It is couched in warm terms, and states that the French Government will have a Loan Contract, on easy terms, drawn up, and will lend the Sultan as much money as he may require; also, that they will help His Majesty in every possible way, and that they are much pleased with his letter. Cid Mohammed Gabbas feared that His Majesty must have, in some way, committed himself in his letter to M. Saint-René Taillandier. The above-mentioned information was confirmed, so far as the Loan Contract is concerned, by the Moorish Minister for Finance, who explained that the Legation banker's Contract was distinct from the one which the French Minister for Foreign Affairs mentioned. He also said that, as the Moorish Government were unwilling to borrow solely from the French, England would be asked to join in the Contract, and that this would be done as soon as the Contract reached Fez.

I have been asked by Kaid Maclean for instructions, and I would propose to tell him to inform Finance Minister not to conclude matter until we have been consulted, and to let us know the terms and amount of the proposed loan, as soon as he is in a position to do so, in order that I may be able to communicate with your Lordship on the subject.

No. 47.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February 24, 1904.*

WITH reference to your telegram, No. 16, of to-day, I sanction your giving the proposed instruction to Sir H. Maclean.

No. 48.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 27.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 7, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, reporting on the condition of affairs at Tetuan and the neighbouring districts.

I would beg leave to draw attention to the concluding paragraph of Mr. Bewicke's despatch, in which he alludes to the desire of many natives that some European Power, Spain excepted, should intervene for the purpose of re-establishing order and security.

The objections to Spanish interference or predominance are, I think, widely prevalent among the inhabitants of the Riff country and along this coast-line. The Moors regard the Spaniards with less respect than other Europeans. The large influx into these parts of the country of Spaniards of the lower classes, who mix and labour on equal terms with the Moorish peasantry and workmen, has led the latter to regard the Spaniards as in nowise superior to them in education or civilization; while the military power and efficiency of Spain have not caused a deep impression on the natives. Spain and the Spaniards are better known to the Moors than any other foreign country; and this special intimacy has not, so far as I can judge, removed or modified the traditional antipathies of the two races.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Tetuan, February* 15, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report, as far as possible, on the state of this district.

People seem to think that the tribes will be compelled by misery and want to make terms with the town. This last week a part of the Houz came in and, I understand, submitted, agreeing that when the time came to apportion the losses sustained by the townspeople in the way of damaged crops, loss of cattle, &c., they would bear their share.

I gather that generally not much faith is placed on the tribes' protestations, and that the common belief is that if the so-called soldiers were taken from here the tribes would all be in revolt again. No one now expects or fears an attack upon the town.

The last two or three days have, however, produced a new and grave feature which may alter the whole state of affairs. The Pretender is reported to have recommenced writing to the tribes, calling on them to send ten representatives each to consult with him about the renewal of hostilities and the strength of the force they will supply him with. He is said to have written to all the tribes round here and to all the Riff tribes.

People say the whole of the country from Tangier to the Algerian frontier is friendly to the Pretender, but that there is no cohesion and no leader. That the Pretender has no money or stores, and consequently is unable to support a large camp, and, therefore, they do not think there is any chance of the tribes leaving their homes for him.

The Anjera tribe is said to be much divided. It is said that Duas, having paid the Commander of the force near Tangier 1,000 dollars to recommend him to the Sultan, has been appointed Kaïd of Anjera, but that two-thirds of the tribe are opposed to him.

It is not thought that he will live long, and, in fact, there was a rumour the other day that he had been shot. For protection he is said to have formed a guard of thirty men who all dress exactly as he does, so that when he is alone he may not be known.

It is very difficult to get any news of the Riff. The reports about Erkina's force, which is said to have left Oojdah, are that it has seriously dwindled away, the men not having been paid and the horses having died from want of food. Apparently a new Kaïd, Bushta Bagdadi, who was in command of the Bocoya force in 1898, has been sent either to join or replace Erkina. Erkina is said to have instigated the neighbouring tribes to attack the Kaïd of Beni Senassen, a strong tribe on the Algerian frontier, but that the Kaïd of Beni Senassen, being warned, has fled with his chief men into Algeria. My informant thought this a serious matter.

People here are very pessimistic about the state of the country generally. An old man, who served with the Sultan's father and grandfather, says he cannot make out what is going on at the Court with its constant changes and its retirement into

Fez for the winter, leaving the enemy unconquered. He says on two occasions he was with the then Sultan in the field for nine months right off, and on one of these occasions in sight of Morocco city the whole time, but no one then thought of going into the town till the campaign was ended in victory.

Several people of fair position have almost said that the Sultan's cause is a lost one, and one has gone so far as to say it is so, and that the only places that remain loyal to the Sultan are the coast towns. This last man assures me that last summer he and five of the principal men of the place discussed the state, and whether they could not call on England to come and protect the town, and badly want to know how long England will allow the present state of affairs to continue.

Many here would welcome protection from any Power with the exception of Spain, but England preferred. They look on Spain as too poor and weak to be able to do them any good. They say they would welcome others, but fight Spain to the death, and believe they could beat her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE.

No. 49.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 18, 1904.

THE Moorish Government, as I gather from letters which I have received from Fez, are in very serious financial difficulties and are most anxious to raise a loan with as little delay as possible. Sir H. Maclean informs me that they are willing to subscribe to all the conditions of the Contract which he brought from London, but as they are desirous of discharging all their outstanding liabilities they wish that the amount of the loan should be increased to 2,000,000*l*. Sir H. Maclean tells me that the Government intend to collect forces with the two-fold object of keeping the Pretender in check and of putting into operation the assessment and collection of taxes. The organization of these forces will, he states, entail a certain expenditure, and that unless the Government are in a position to find the necessary means he considers that the situation will become very serious.

There can be no question as to the gravity of the financial situation, as the whole administrative and financial machinery has broken down, and there appears to be little prospect of any revenue being derived from internal taxation.

With respect to loans, I am informed that M. Maurei has telegraphed to his agent here that he is sending counter-proposals of a "partially favourable" character in reply to the explanations desired by the Moorish Government, and which I reported in my despatch No. 19 of the 5th instant. Without effective control over both the collection of the assigned revenues and over the general expenditure of the Government, a loan, in the present circumstances, would be a somewhat hazardous venture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 50.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 19, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 17 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, translation of a note which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs expressing the regret of the Sultan at the desecration of the European cemetery at Morocco City, and stating that orders have been sent for the rebuilding of the cemetery wall and for the apprehension and punishment of the culprits.

I am informed from Morocco City that the cemetery wall has been completely rebuilt, and that about sixty individuals are in prison in connection with the riots.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Abdelkrim Ben Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 20 *Kaada*, 1321 (*February* 7, 1904.)

I RECEIVED your letter informing me that when the riots occurred last month at Marrakesh some disreputable persons went to the foreign cemetery and demolished the walls and violated one of the graves, and you ask that an inquiry be held to discover the perpetrators, and that they be punished. I took note of this, having informed His Majesty thereof. The news had already reached the Shereefian Court that at the time of the occurrence (riot) some disreputable persons had assailed the cemetery and demolished a portion of its wall. His Majesty regretted this incident deeply and issued Shereefian orders to Moulai Hafid to take proper steps for guarding the cemetery, to rebuild throughout what had been pulled down, to search for the perpetrators and arrest those who were present at the attack upon it. As regards the news you received that one of the graves had been violated, the investigation is still being pursued to verify the facts, and in any case our Lord (compliments) regrets it deeply, and is anxious that all necessary attention be given to this matter so that a satisfactory punishment be meted out to the authors of this wicked act, please God.

May you rest, &c.
(Signed) ABDELKRIM BEN SLIMAN.

No. 51.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 20, 1904.

THE reports which I received yesterday from the southern districts state that a considerable, and apparently increasing, agitation has arisen among several tribes against the Governors who have recently arrived from Fez As I stated in my despatch No. 10 of the 17th January, these officials paid for the bestowal of their posts, and their endeavours to reimburse themselves for the outlay have led, I am told, to several of them having to fly from their districts. The natives have elected, it is said, Governors of their own, and decline to recognize any nominee of the Moorish Government. These incidents are fresh evidence of the impotence of the Central Government.

It is reported generally, though I myself have received no trustworthy information, that the French doctor who recently visited the Pretender found that he was merely suffering from rheumatism, and it is anticipated that he will, in person, shortly resume the offensive. His lieutenants are active, and his deputy recently arrived near Melilla to reaffirm his authority among the Riff tribes and, if possible, to come to some arrangement with the Spanish authorities for the establishment of Customs offices in the Spanish lines to replace those of the Moorish Government, which were withdrawn last year. The Spanish authorities declined on a previous occasion to entertain this proposal, and will doubtless now adopt a similar course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 52.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February* 21, 1904.

I WAS informed this morning that M. Maurel had written to say that, after consultation with the "Crédit Mobilier," he was sending out fresh proposals for a Moorish loan, which should arrive here to-morrow, and which would, he trusted, render the conditions easier and more acceptable to the Moorish Government. So far as I can ascertain I think it extremely probable that now the Moorish Government will make little difficulty in subscribing to any terms which may be proposed, as their financial straits are such as to render it essential that money should be obtained almost at any cost. Whether the loan will be easy to float in Paris is a question on which I can express no opinion.

Unless a loan is obtained I consider that the Moorish Government will be unable to pay the instalments of interest due on the 31st March on the three existing loans. The Central Government are not in a position to render any assistance; and it is doubtful if any supplies will be forthcoming in time from the coast towns.

There is a sum of 500,000 dollars (about 60,000*l.*) of new silver coinage in the Treasury here, but the authorities have engaged not to dispose of this sum until the contractors have been paid what is due to them. If a portion of this sum could be liberated the instalments of the inrerest could be met; but it is possible that some of the contractors might object to this transaction, as the above sum is some guarantee, an insufficient one it is true, for the debts owing to them.

Some weeks ago I expressed the hope to the official here, who is the agent of the Minister for Finance, that he would commence to collect the funds necessary to pay the interest on the three loans, and he assured me that he would do so. So far as I can ascertain no measures have hitherto been taken for this purpose. I will see him again to-morrow and impress on him the necessity of collecting all available funds; but I am bound to state that I fear he will not succeed unless assistance from outside is procured. The Customs on the coast are owed considerable sums by merchants on account of export duties which the latter have refused to pay in Spanish currency. If the Moorish Government would agree to the demands made by the Diplomatic Body that payment of these duties should be accepted in Moorish money, it is then possible that the Customs at Casablanca and elsewhere would be in a position to forward funds to Tangier. Hitherto Moorish Government have not acceded to our requests; and there are doubtless urgent calls from Fez on the revenues of the Customs at the ports to meet requirements at the capital.

The whole financial and administrative machinery of this country is completely out of gear, and I look with uneasiness to the ensuing spring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 53.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, February* 26, 1904.

KAID SIR H. MACLEAN has been requested by Sid Mohammed Gabbas to forward to me the following message, which is dated the 23rd instant, by special courier:—

"Owing to the Moorish Government having only sufficient money in the Treasury to last them for eight days, they will be obliged to agree to whatever terms, in regard to a loan, that may be offered them by France. Should the loan be obtained by the French, Morocco will pass into their hands, and a successor to the Sultan will probably be selected by them be fore long. Most serious trouble will arise if the Moorish Government are unable to pay the Fez garrison, and a far more dangerous situation than could be created by the Pretender will occur. The Minister of War fears that in that case the Sultan might be overthrown.

"Immediate financial aid from England is earnestly pressed for by him, and he begs for a speedy reply. Until he hears from me, the Moorish Government will close with no French offer."

I can quite believe in the pressing pecuniary difficulties of the Moorish Government, and I can credit, to a certain extent, some of the fears which Sid Mohammed Gabbas expresses.

I shall be glad to know what answer I may send to the Minister of War.

No. 54.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 27, 1904.

MY telegram No. 17 of yesterday's date.

I do not see how, for at least four weeks, the Moorish Government can receive any money on the Loan Contract drafted in France.

Mr. Abensur informs me that, with reference to the Maurel Contract, before the documents are prepared and signed by both parties, and the Moorish Government are enabled to draw upon a Paris bank, the above-mentioned time must elapse. The contract itself cannot reach the capital until to-day or to-morrow at earliest. I do not know whether Sid Mohammed Gabbas referred to the above-mentioned contract or to the French Government one, mentioned in my telegram No. 16 of the 24th instant. The latter has, I understand, not yet arrived from Paris.

In any case the Moorish Government require an immediate advance from either France or us, and are anxious that we should arrange a joint loan with the French. They can hardly await the completion of Loan Contracts if their needs are so immediately pressing.

No. 55.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 27, 1904.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 17 of yesterday: If a French loan is really offered to the Moorish Government, I do not think we can dissuade them from accepting it.

Very serious questions are raised by their request for financial assistance from England. We much regret the difficult situation in which the Moorish Government find themselves, but, owing to the unsettled condition of that country and the insecurity felt as to its ability to meet financial obligations, financiers here are not disposed to make any advance, even with the support provisionally promised by His Majesty's Government.

The situation becomes still worse in view of the possible default on existing loans.

No. 56.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 103.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, February 27, 1904.

THE French Ambassador told me to-day he had been instructed to inform me that the Sultan of Morocco had applied to a French Bank for a new loan. It was, his Excellency believed, absolutely necessary that the Sultan should obtain financial assistance, and as there was, he hoped, reason to believe that we were approaching a satisfactory understanding with regard to our relations in Morocco, there could, he thought, be no inconvenience in such a loan as he had described being arranged with

the concurrence and assistance of the French Government. His Excellency had been desired to mention the matter to me, in order that I might be fully aware of what was passing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 57.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 25.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, February 27, 1904.

I TOLD the Spanish Ambassador to-day that, in consequence of the observations which he had made to me on the 17th instant in reference to rumours of an Agreement between France and Great Britain as to their interests in Morocco, I had again spoken to the French Ambassador upon the subject. I had found his Excellency quite as much disposed as I was to admit that, in any arrangement which might be made between us, due consideration should be given to the special interests of Spain. Both France and England desired that the *status quo* should be disturbed as little as possible, and that the authority of the Sultan shonld be preserved. We were also of one mind as to the necessity of maintaining the open door in regard to international commerce, and as to the desirability of neutralizing a great part of the Moorish coast-line. We also recognized that Spain had considerable territorial rights in Morocco—rights which must in any case be respected, and which gave her a further and indirect interest in that part of the Sultan's possessions which adjoined her own. I added that should we see our way to a settlement with France affecting the status of Morocco, Spain would certainly be taken into our confidence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 58.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 7.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord,

Tangier, February 24, 1904.

I REQUESTED the Agent here of the Minister of Finance to be good enough to call upon me yesterday morning, and I inquired of him whether he had made any provision for meeting the payment of interest due on the 31st March on account of the three existing loans. He told me that he had written on more than one occasion to Fez, intimating that funds should be furnished him in good time; but that he had received no reply. He added that he doubted if he would receive in time any money from the coast towns; and, though the matter was causing him much anxiety, he was powerless to remedy the situation, which was one with which the Central Government alone could deal. He trusted that a loan might be arranged with some Paris financial house in sufficient time to enable the Government to discount bills and pay the quarterly interest on the three loans. He said he would write again to Fez, and hoped that I would also do so. I told him that I intended to bring the matter to the notice of the Finance Minister, as it was of a most pressing nature, and very serious consequences would arise were the Moorish Government to make default.

I wrote to Sir H. Maclean yesterday and requested him to speak most seriously in my name to the Finance Minister, and to point out to his Excellency the necessity of making preparations without delay for meeting the interest due on the 31st March. I added that there were no available funds at Tangier, and that it was extremely doubtful if any would arrive from the coast. I therefore most earnestly advised his Excellency to take immediate measures to procure the amount required, as it would be a very serious matter indeed for the Moorish Government if they made default.

As the Treasury at Fez, so far as I can ascertain, is practically depleted, I am afraid that the Finance Minister will hardly be in a position to afford much assistance.

Subsequently Cid Benasser Ghanam, the Sultan's Commissioner, paid me a visit and informed me that he had received instructions to endeavour to induce the Agents here of the coinage contractors to agree to liberate the silver coins which were held in deposit in the local Treasury, pending a settlement of the debts due to the contractors. He said that

the Government were prepared to give promissory notes, engaging to discharge their obligations within six months; and he hoped that I would use my influence to obtain the consent of the English Agent to this arrangement. It was, he said, of the first importance that the Government should have some money to meet the interest on the loans and also other pressing requirements.

I told Cid Benasser Ghanam that I understood a large sum was already owing to Messrs. Pariente for the silver contract, and that I could not take upon myself to press them to surrender the only tangible guarantee which they held. I would, however, convey to them what he had told me; but I imagined that they would desire to act in co-operation with the other Agents.

From statistics which Cid Benasser Ghanam supplied to me as to the amounts of silver coin still held in deposit, it was clear that the authorities here had already made serious inroads into these funds without informing the contractors. The amount already subtracted I found to be about 200,000 dollars (or 28,000*l.*); and that instead of over 500,000 dollars being in the local Treasury, only 319,000 dollars are now there. It is possible that if the authorities are very hard pressed they will still further diminish the hoard; and it seems to me, in these circumstances, that it would be as well for the contractors to take promissory notes and release the deposits. Messrs. Pariente are quite willing to do so; but I understand some of the other Agents are not of the same mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 59.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 24, 1904.*

AN informant, who has hitherto proved very fairly trustworthy, has recently returned from Taza to Fez having remained nine days in the former town. Having on his arrival been recognized as an inhabitant of Fez he was kept under some surveillance, and had to find a security for his good behaviour. He was brought before the Pretender himself, who holds daily Court, and who put merely two questions to him: One was as to whether Kaïd Omar Yusi, an active partizan of the Government, was still in Fez; and the other, whether Sir H. Maclean had returned to the capital. The informant states that the Pretender looked in fair health, and that he rode to the Friday mosque.

The informant reports, and I have heard this from other sources, that some French merchants are often passing to and fro between Taza, Melilla, and Algeria. Two French merchants, with a Jew interpreter, were in Taza during the stay of the informant, and four others were leaving the town as he entered it. The French doctor had left Taza before the informant arrived.

The general opinion in Taza was that, after the Aid-el-Kebir (the Great Feast), which takes place on the 26th instant, the Pretender would resume active operations. This indeed would, of necessity, be imposed on him, as the informant found, during his journey to Taza, that several of the tribes were wavering in their adhesion to his cause on account of his being inactive. If he or his lieutenants are able to secure some success in their operations against the Government forces at Oojdah or elsewhere those who are now wavering will soon join his standard, and the situation will be similar to that of twelve months ago. There will, unfortunately, be some difference. The Government forces are now few in numbers, ill-provided, and disheartened, and are deprived of their former energetic and active Commander, Cid-el-Menebhi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 60.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 34. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 24, 1904.*

I RECEIVED this morning a private letter from Sir H. Maclean, dated the 15th instant, stating that Ci Mohammed Guebbas, the Minister of War, had informed him that some time ago the Sultan had written an autograph letter to the French Minister here, but that none of His Majesty's Ministers had been made acquainted with its contents. The Sultan, his Excellency stated, had now received a reply from M. Delcassé, which His Majesty had communicated to his Ministers, and from the tenour of which the latter feared that the Sultan in his private communication had perhaps committed himself somewhat imprudently. M. Delcassé, Ci Mohammed Guebbas said, had written in the warmest terms, and had expressed the great pleasure with which His Majesty's letter to M. Saint René Taillandier had been perused by the French Government. M. Delcassé assured the Sultan that the French Government would assist His Majesty in every possible way, and would be ready to advance any money that might be required. M. Delcassé added that he had given orders that a Contract for a loan should be drawn up, and that when this document was prepared he would forward it to the Sultan for His Majesty's approval.

Ci Mohammed Guebbas, who was lately Moorish Commissioner on the Algerian frontier, and who is, or professes to be, suspicious of friendly overtures from France, expressed to Sir H. Maclean his fear that, if this loan were accepted, the first step would have been taken towards the surrender of Moorish independence.

Ameen Tazee, the Minister of Finance, subsequently sent for Sir H. Maclean, and informed him that a French Loan Contract would shortly arrive, which was proposed and elaborated by the French Government, and was quite distinct from the project which was being negotiated through the Legation bankers, Messrs. Pariente, on behalf of M. Maurel. Ameen Tazee said that the Moorish Government feared to accept a loan bearing so official a character, and that they would far prefer if England would also take part in the transaction. He added that as soon as the Contract arrived he would show it to Sir H. Maclean, and he trusted that English houses would be ready to take half of the amount, whatever it might be.

Sir H. Maclean has requested me to furnish him with instructions for his guidance, as he feels sure he will be pressed to give some indication as to the probabilities of British financial houses being disposed to join in this transaction.

I am surprised to hear that the Sultan, on his own initiative and without consultation with any of his Ministers, opened up direct and personal negotiations with the French Minister. I am bound to state that I have serious doubts whether the course of proceedings was such as described by the Minister of War. Some further proof than his mere statement would be necessary to convince me. Be that as it may, I presume that there are grounds for the expectation of the Moorish Government that the French Government are prepared to send them a loan Contract; though from recent conversations with the French Minister, he never gave me to understand that, at this moment, Paris was more inclined than London to advance money to Morocco.

In these circumstances, I have ventured to propose that I should inform Sir H. Maclean that when the Contract arrives he should suggest to the Minister of Finance to communicate the terms to him, and that he should recommend the Moorish Government not to come to any final decision in regard to it until I had had an opportunity of consulting with your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 61.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Tangier, February 25, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatches No. 11 of the 17th January and No. 19 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the revised French

Loan Contract which has been transmitted here by M. Maurel, and forwarded to Fez two days ago.

The modifications which have been introduced are designed to meet the objections raised by the Moorish Government. The loan is to be paid off in twenty-five years instead of fifty years, which will entail an annual debt charge of, roughly, 80,000*l.*, instead of about 60,000*l.*, as in the original draft Contract. Moreover, an amendment has been introduced in regard to the guarantees, which are now, in the first instance, to be supplied by the customs revenues of Tangier, Mogador, and Casablanca, and in case of deficiency these revenues are to be supplemented from the other customs. The agents of the contractors are to receive daily payments up to 1,786 fr. from each of these customs. Tangier may be left out of account, as in fact the revenues from this port are already fully pledged for local requirements and for the service of the three existing loans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 61.

French Loan Contract.

ARTICLE 1^er^. La Banque s'engage à tenir à la disposition du Makzen une somme de 20,000,000 de francs or effectif contre remise de 50,000 obligations de 500 fr. Cette somme pourra être retirée sur simple cheque ou autrement aux caisses de la Banque sans que le retrait puisse être supérieur par mois à 3,333,333 fr., à moins de convention contraire.

Art. 2. Le taux d'intérêt est fixé à 6 pour cent. La somme correspondante annuellement aux intérêts et à l'amortissement, soit 1,955,668 fr., augmentée des frais de transport à Paris, sera payée en or par trimestre échu le 31 Mars, 30 Juin, 30 Septembre, et 31 Décembre de chaque année, entre les mains du représentant de la Banque, sous réserve de ce qui est dit à l'Article 5.

Art. 3. L'amortissement du capital commercera deux ans revolus à partir de la date du Contrat, et s'effectuera dans un délai de vingt-cinq années. Le Makzen s'interdit le droit d'opérer la conversion du taux d'intérêt ou le remboursement par anticipation avant une période de dix ans. Au cas où le Makzen userait du droit de remboursement par anticipation, ce remboursement devra être effectué au pair et pour la partie de l'emprunt mise en circulation.

Art. 4. Pour garantir le capital et les intérêts de cette emprunt, Sa Majesté le Sultan aliène à titre de garantie spéciale la totalité des recettes des douanes de Tanger, Mogador, et Casablanca jusqu'à concurrence des sommes prévues par l'Article 2 nécessitées pour le service de l'emprunt.

Au cas où la totalité des recettes de ces trois douanes deviendrait insuffisant pour effectuer régulièrement les paiements prévus par l'Article 2, le Sultan s'engage dès maintenant à compléter ces paiements avec les revenus de ses autres douanes, et avec toutes les ressources dont il dispose. En tout cas, la somme échue et non payée sera productive elle-même d'intérêts au taux de 7 pour cent.

Art. 5. En vue d'assurer le fonctionnement de cette garantie spéciale, le Gouvernement Marocain s'engage à accréditer auprès du chef des douanes de Tanger, Mogador, et Casablanca le représentant de la Banque désigné par cette dernière à l'effet de percevoir, au fur et à mesure des encaissements de douanes, la part proportionnelle indiquée dans l'Article 2. Le Sultan donne par la présente ordre au Chef des Oumana de chacun de ces ports de remettre à ce représentant tous les jours l'état de recettes effectuées dans la journée, et de lui verser chaque jour la totalité des sommes encaissées jusju'à concurrence de la somme proportionnelle nécessaire pour assurer le service —intérêts et amortissements—de l'emprunt, soit 1,786 fr. pour chacune des trois douanes.

Art. 6. En représentation de l'engagement pris par la Banque en vertu de l'Article 1 ci-dessus, Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan crée et remet à la Banque une autorisation qui est annexée au présent Contrat à l'effet de créer 50,000 obligations de 500 fr. chacune; ces obligations jouiront de tous les droits stipulés aux termes des Articles précédents.

No. 62.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March 7.*)

(No. 36. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February 27, 1904.*

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a letter, dated the 23rd instant, from Sir H. Maclean, conveying a message which Ci Mohammed Guebbas, the Minister of War, desired should be transmitted to me as speedily as possible.

The communication was to the effect that the Moorish Government had only sufficient funds to last for eight days, and that, in these circumstances, they would be forced to accept any terms which the French desired to impose in connection with a loan. His Excellency added that he had lived with the French for over two years, and was well conversant with their policy towards Morocco; and he was convinced that if they supplied a loan under present conditions they would practically have bought this country, and would within a year's time depose the Sultan and select a successor themselves. If England had any interest in Morocco she should insist on any loan being made a joint one, and he earnestly hoped that I would do my utmost to persuade His Majesty's Government to stand by the Moorish Government in their present need. It was absolutely necessary that money should be obtained at once, as if the Government were unable to pay the troops at Fez—a wild and turbulent body—a most serious situation would arise—far more serious than any which the Pretender could create. Indeed, he feared that in that case the Sultan might be overthrown. In these circumstances, the Minister of War implored me to impress on my Government that, unless Morocco was to be handed over to French control, it was of extreme importance that Great Britain should insist on any loan being a joint one; and that some immediate advance should be made, preferably by England, or, failing her, by France. His Excellency added that the Moorish Government would not finally close with any French offer until they received my reply, which, he hoped, I would send with as little delay as possible.

I do not question the statement that the Moorish Government are in extreme financial straits; and it is much to be regretted that they should have allowed matters to arrive at such a pass that in a few days hence they would find themselves penniless. I am told that the Finance Minister and others, who have profited largely by the former loan transactions, have made some advances, but this information is anterior to the message of the Minister of War, and, whatever advances may have been made, they presumably were taken into account by his Excellency.

I do not clearly understand to which French Contract the Minister of War alludes—whether to the Contract proposed by M. Maurel, supported, I am told, by the Crédit Mobilier, or to the Contract which the Moorish Government recently informed me they were expecting from the French Government. I have not been informed whether this latter Contract has, as yet, reached the hands of the Moorish Government, though as there are two letters from Sir H. Maclean to me still overdue, it is possible that they may contain some news on the subject. In any case, if the Minister of War is not exaggerating the imminence of the financial catastrophe, and Sir H. Maclean states that he is positive that such is not the case, it is clear that a prompt advance of money is required. To my mind, the most serious danger lies in the situation which would arise were the troops at Fez to be left without their pay. They would probably revolt, and most certainly desert. The Sultan would then be defenceless, and exposed to any consequences which popular discontent or action on the part of the Pretender might entail. At the same time it would be difficult, at the present moment and in present conditions, to discover some guarantees which would securely safeguard any financial assistance, unless immediate control were exercised over all the customs revenues—the only resources of the Government. The Customs at the several coast towns are, I understand, in some difficulties, while the state of the Tangier Customs is complete chaos. They have no available resources, and are now, I hear, unable to send the customary supply to Tetuan for the payment of the garrison there. They are approaching the local bankers for advances, and offering to pay any rate of interest; but these gentlemen, to some of whom considerable sums are already owing, decline to enter upon any fresh ventures.

The only solution would seem to be the establishment of some foreign control at the Court; but it will take some time before financial stability can be restored, and the task will be by no means an easy one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 63.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 8, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 18 of the 27th ultimo, regarding Moorish loans.

The terms of the Moorish Loan Contract have been accepted by the Moorish Government, and in order to have the matter finally settled if possible before the end of this month, the agents here have telegraphed to Paris for the necessary documents to be dispatched immediately, in order that bills may be drawn by the Moorish Government.

The pressing financial difficulties could be relieved and the interest on the three loans paid if this transaction is carried through satisfactorily.

I am informed by Mr. Abensur that he is assured that the French Government have given their approval to this loan.

With reference to my despatch No. 34 of the 24th ultimo, I have heard nothing further regarding the loan which it was said M. Delcassé proposed to offer to the Moorish Government.

No. 64.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 10.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 10, 1904.

WITH reference to loans to the Moorish Government. A letter has now been received from the Finance Minister requesting that, for a few days, the negotiations as to M. Maurel's contract be suspended, as the Sultan has apparently some doubts in regard to the mode proposed for securing the Customs guarantees.

As to what is passing at the capital in regard to these matters, I have received no information myself.

No. 65.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 13, 1904.

KAID MACLEAN has been informed by Cid Mohammed Guebbas, the Minister of War, that some French Syndicate is ready to grant a loan of 2,000,000*l.* on easy terms to the Moorish Government. The above news was confirmed by the French Vice-Consul at Fez to Kaïd Maclean, who also said that in about a week from now he expected the proposals would arrive.

This new proposal would account for the suspension of the Maurel loan negotiations. At Tangier rumours are current regarding the new loan, and it is also said that a railway from the Algerian frontier towards Fez is the only concession.

I understand that the three existing loans will be paid off by proceeds of the new loan. I have been assured by the Minister for Finance that funds will be forthcoming on the 31st instant, to meet payment of interest on the three existing loans then due.

No. 66.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 16, 1904.

WITH reference to loans to the Moorish Government. The Maurel loan negotiations have been renewed by the Moorish Government, who propose to pledge Customs revenues at Mazagan, Mogador, and Saffi instead of ports mentioned in contract. As

they have, at the same time, stated that they have received better offers for a larger loan, I do not understand their object in resuming the above negotiations.

In order to pay the interest due on the 31st instant, on the three loans the Moorish authorities propose to gradually buy bills on Europe with some silver coinage, which is in deposit at Tangier.

No. 67.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 31. Very Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1904.

I HAD some further conversation with the Spanish Ambassador to-day upon the subject of the negotiations now in progress between Great Britain and France. His Excellency told me that he had noticed the statements which had appeared during the last day or two in the press to the effect that an arrangement had been concluded.

I assured his Excellency that this was not the case. It was an open secret that negotiations were proceeding, and I had never concealed from him that they concerned Morocco; but other points in which Spain had no interest were included in their scope, and it was obviously useless for me to discuss the matter with his Excellency until the two Powers had actually come to terms.

As to Morocco, however, I repeated that we had from the first recognized the importance of Spanish interests in that country, and made it a *sine qud non* that those interests should be taken into account. Our agreement with France would, therefore, be subject to the condition that Spain was to be fully consulted and satisfied. I did not myself anticipate that there would be much difficulty in satisfying her, for, as his Excellency was aware from what I had already told him, we were committed to the view that any arrangement at which we might arrive should be based upon the maintenance so far as possible of the territorial *status quo*, upon equality of treatment for our commerce, and the neutralization of the most important portions of the Moorish Littoral. There could, of course, be no question of depriving Spain of anything that was hers already.

His Excellency appeared to be entirely satisfied by my statement, and asked me whether, in my opinion, it was desirable that the Spanish Government should, if they desired to raise the question, approach us in the first instance, or the French Government. I replied, that in my opinion, it would be best that the subject should first be discussed between the Spanish and French Governments, and if it should result from those discussions that the Spanish Government desired to come to us, I need not assure his Excellency that any representations which they might make would receive the most careful and friendly consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 68.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 20, 1904.

I AM informed by M. Saint René Taillandier, the French Minister here, that terms for a considerable loan to the Moorish Government are being deliberated by several financial houses in Paris.

A telegram has been received here from London containing news of practical conclusion of negotiations with France on outstanding questions, including Morocco, and on its receipt a special courier was dispatched to the capital by the Sultan's deputy.

No. 69.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Tangier, January* 8, 1904.

THE despatches which I received yesterday from the coast would seem to indicate that affairs were entering a more tranquil phase, but the situation undergoes such constant variations that it would be hazardous to consider that there is a near prospect of permanent order being re-established.

A force, variously estimated at between 1,500 and 500 men, has arrived at Rabat under the command of Muley Abdelmalik, an uncle of the Sultan. The mission of this force is to punish some of the disorderly tribes in the Chaouia district, and its operations will be watched with some curiosity, as there is considerable speculation as to the nature of the reception which will be accorded to it.

The reports as to what is passing in the eastern districts are so vague and contradictory that it is impossible to form an opinion; but the general belief and expectations are that the Pretender is on the point of marching towards Oojdah. Both contending parties, apparently, are hampered by want of money, unfavourable weather, and, I gather, by a certain weariness and absence of zeal among their respective followers.

For some days I have received no news from Fez; but one of my last letters stated that the horses were dying for want of forage, and that the men were deserting for want of pay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 70.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 8, 1904.

I WAS informed this morning by Mr. Abensur, the Legation Banker, that the Moorish Government had expressed their readiness to accept the terms of the loan contract which is promoted by M. Maurel of Paris, and had requested that all possible expedition should be employed in the dispatch of the necessary documents for signature. The Moorish Government had expressed a wish that the customs revenues of Tangier should not be included among the guarantees for the loan, as they considered that the revenues of Casa Blanca and of Mogador would amply suffice for the purpose. They further intimated that they would be grateful if the proceeds of the loan could be paid to them within three months instead of six months, as stipulated in the contract.

These wishes of the Moorish Government will be transmitted to Paris, though Mr. Abensur was unable to say whether they would be agreed to.

Mr. Abensur added that a telegram had been sent to M. Maurel informing him that the Moorish Government had assented to his proposals, and requesting him to forward without delay the necessary documents. Mr. Abensur calculated that, if no misadventure arose, the transaction could be finally completed before the end of the month, and thus the Moorish Government would be in a position to draw bills for a certain amount of the loan, and thereby be able to meet the interest due on the 1st April on the three existing loans.

He said that he had been assured that the French Government had expressed their approval of the loan, and he had been given to understand that there would be no difficulty in providing the funds.

Mr. Abensur stated, in reply to my inquiries, that in the revised contract no mention was made of the "Article Additionnel" which had been appended to the original contract, and he therefore considered that it had been abandoned. This "Article Additionnel" authorized the bank, within a period of eighteen months, to raise an additional loan of 30,000,000 fr., whose proceeds might be utilized for paying off the three existing loans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 71.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Tangier, March* 10, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke, reporting that measures are being taken for the establishment, under French auspices, of a free school at Tetuan.

Some three years ago a French school for Moorish boys was established in Tangier by the Algerian interpreter of the French Legation, and this institution is now attended by some seventy pupils. I believe that it is proposed to open similar schools at other towns in Morocco. These are the only establishments where Moorish boys can acquire any rational education, and as the teachers will be Algerian Mussulmans, the natives will have less hesitation in sending their children to these schools than would be the case if the instruction were given by Christians.

Some time ago I suggested to the Sultan that the Moorish Government should establish schools at one or two of the principal towns with a wider curriculum than that followed in the native schools, and I mentioned that competent teachers might be engaged from Egypt. His Majesty expressed his entire concurrence with this suggestion, but no effect was given to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Vice-Consul Bewicke to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Tetuan, March* 7, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have been informed that the Algerian who for some two years past has been in charge of the French post-office here is looking out for premises to start a school in.

I am told there will be six school hours a-day—three to be devoted to Arabic and three to French.

My informant further tells me this is to be a free school, so I can only suppose it is to be supported by the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. BEWICKE

No. 72.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 23.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, March* 23, 1904.

MY telegram No. 23 of the 16th instant.

The Customs officials at Tangier have received orders from the Minister of Finance not to dispose of the silver coin which is here. The Customs officials had intended to buy with this silver bills on Europe to pay the interest on the three loans due on the 31st March, but these orders will prevent their doing so.

These orders, for which no reason is given, will, I fear, unless funds are forthcoming from elsewhere, result in default being made.

Personally, I know of no other available resources than the above-mentioned silver; and the Tangier Customs officials state that they are not expecting any funds to arrive either from Fez or the coast.

No. 73.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 25, 1904.

I AM informed by M. St. Rene Taillandier that arrangements for payment of dividends on three loans due on the 31st instant have been made. The necessary advance, I understand, has been made by a French bank.

No. 74.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 40.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 14, 1904.

FROM reports which are current in Fez as to the condition of affairs in Taza, it would appear that the Pretender is meeting with considerable difficulty in collecting any force for future operations. It is said that the dealings which he has recently had with certain merchants from Algeria, through a M. Delbrel, a French adventurer, have displeased many of his adherents, who interpret these commercial transactions as indicating a tendency to enter into relations with Christians. His wound dispelled the belief existing among his more simple-minded followers as to his immunity from human ills, while his prolonged inactivity has shaken the confidence of the more bellicose tribes in his energy and resourcefulness. Moreover, the continuance of an inactive rebellion is becoming wearisome to those who joined it in the hope of easy victories and profitable plunder.

If the Moorish Government were in a position to resume active operations, there is every probability that the resistance would be half-hearted and ineffective; but as they, at present, have neither men nor money, they are equally compelled to remain quiescent.

In the Riff there has been during the past week some serious inter-tribal fighting, and Melilla has again become the asylum of many refugees.

Attempts are being made through some young Shereefs of Wazzan to effect a reconciliation between Angera and other tribes and Tetuan, but hitherto no substantial progress has been made in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 75.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 14, 1904.

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a letter from Sir H. Maclean, stating that the Minister of War had informed him that the Moorish Government were expecting from France a loan of 50,000,000 fr., which would enable them to discharge all their outstanding liabilities, presumably including the three existing loans. Cid Mohammed Guebbas did not give Sir H. Maclean any details as to the terms, merely stating that they would not be onerous, but he added that he was aware that if the Moorish Government accepted the loan—and in the present circumstances I do not see how they can do otherwise—the French would have complete control over the country.

There can be no doubt that it would be imprudent to afford the Moorish Government financial assistance of so substantial a character without some control being established over the expenditure of the funds. I gather from a recent conversation I had with the French Minister on the subject of the financial situation that this point is clearly understood by those in France who may be disposed to furnish advances.

The French Vice-Consul at Fez, M. Gaillard, also told Sir H. Maclean that proposals for a loan were on their way, and that he expected to receive instructions with regard to them about the 20th instant.

It was the knowledge that this loan would shortly be offered that in all probability prompted the Moorish Government to suspend negotiations in connection with the project of M. Maurel.

In reply to the communication which I caused to be made to the Minister of Finance, his Excellency has assured me that the money necessary for the payment of the interest due on the 31st instant on the three loans will be ready by that date, and I trust that the Moorish Government will before then obtain some advances which will enable them to meet their engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 76.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 43. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 20, 1904.

THE French Minister informed me yesterday that negotiations were proceeding in Paris with several financial houses in regard to the conditions on which a loan could be offered to the Moorish Government. He said that the loan would be of a considerable amount, and that due precautions would be taken that the proceeds should be carefully expended and not squandered. M. Saint René Taillandier was of opinion that the negotiations might take some little time, as the several financial houses which were to take part in the transaction were not, as yet, entirely in accord as to certain of the details.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 77.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 28, 1904.

Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore,—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the sum total of British trade with Morocco; what foreign Power enjoys the maximum financial control in the Sultanate; and what steps will be taken by His Majesty's Government to safeguard British commercial interests in that country.

Answer.

The total value of the trade in merchandize between this country and Morocco in 1903 was 1,448,509*l.*, distributed as follows: imports, 5,559,509*l.*; exports of British and Irish produce, 691,336*l.*; and exports of foreign and colonial produce, 197,664*l.*

No foreign Power exercises financial control in the Sultanate so far as His Majesty's Government are aware.

It would obviously be impossible for me to make any announcement in reply to the latter part of the question, but in any arrangement which may be come to with regard to Morocco, care will be taken to safeguard British commercial interests in that country.

No. 78.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 31.)
(Extract.)

Madrid, March 24, 1904.

IN regard to the Morocco question, he (the Minister of State) declared that Spain was only animated by the fervent desire to maintain the *status quo* in that country, and to endeavour to secure all possible improvements and reforms.

He was not surprised that the question had been asked whether Spain would be excluded from Morocco by the understanding between France and England, but he thought that when the time came for these two nations to deal with the question Spain would find that her proper rôle had been reserved for her.

Without wishing to make any definite declaration, he stated that, although some people maintained that the Morocco question only interested immediate neighbours of that country, there were others who considered that the question is not one of neighbourhood pure and simple, but that it also includes the question of civilization, and of the defence of commercial interests in the best sense of the word.

Therefore, those people who possessed titles as neighbours, or from Treaties, or from past actions, and who held, as it were, the instrument in which the debts were recorded, had a special right to intervene in the question; but the fact of holding such title-deeds would be of little use unless it was accompanied by a firm attitude in enforcing their rights.

Although it was not possible to effect in a few moments what was really the work of centuries, endeavours had been made by the present Government to fit out what are now the military penal settlements of Ceuta and Melilla as military ports, and the same could be said of the Zaffarine Islands.

No. 79.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 44.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March 25, 1904.*

I HAVE been endeavouring to ascertain what are the prospects of the Moorish Government being in a position to meet the dividends due on the three loans at the end of the current quarter, as I have, hitherto, observed no preparations in progress for the collection of the necessary funds.

It had been arranged that the Customs authorities should gradually sell some of the new silver coinage in the Treasury here and buy bills on Europe, but a few days ago orders arrived from Fez that these silver reserves were to remain intact. I do not understand the motive of the Finance Minister in preventing the Customs authorities from utilizing the silver coinage which they had in hand, as some of the silver contractors had decided to sanction the disposal of these reserves, and to accept promissory notes, repayable in six months with a substantial interest. The financial methods of the Moorish Government are, however, so peculiar that they are frequently unaccountable.

I am now told that the Customs officials have decided, in the present pressing circumstances, to disregard their orders, and are endeavouring to dispose of the silver coinage. They may find some little difficulty in doing so, as the time before them is so very short; but I believe they are prepared to make considerable financial sacrifices, as they fear that on this occasion no assistance will be forthcoming from Europe.

Although on the 23rd ultimo the Minister of War stated that in eight days the Treasury would be completely depleted, I am informed that the garrison at Fez is still receiving its daily pay and rations. I am told that the Minister of Finance, who of late has greatly enriched himself, has made a gift of 500,000 dollars (about 70,000*l.*) to the Government, and the latter have also returned to the system of selling provincial Governorships to aspiring candidates. This is much to be regretted, as the Governors, in endeavouring to reimburse themselves, will meet with opposition, as the tribes are now well armed, and are not disposed to willingly submit to arbitrary, or indeed to any, taxation. The French Minister tells me that the ex-Governor of Zerhoun, a district between Fez and Mequinez, has purchased his reinstatement for a sum of 5,000*l.* He had been recalled by the Government at the unanimous desire of the tribe, and his return, in these circumstances, will not insure him a friendly welcome.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—Since writing the above, the French Minister has informed me that arrangements have been made for the payment of the dividends due on the 31st instant. These arrangements were concluded this afternoon, and I understand that the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas has furnished the necessary funds. M. Saint René Taillandier further told me that discussions were still proceeding between the Quai d'Orsay and Paris financiers in regard to a loan to the Moorish Government.

A. N.

No. 80.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March 25, 1904.*

THE French Minister informed me this morning that the son of Bu Amama, who is a lieutenant of the Pretender, is very active in the neighbourhood of Oojdah, and is causing considerable inconvenience to the Moorish garrison in that place by intercepting supplies. The Moorish Commander was endeavouring to collect a force to take the offensive against him, but had not met with any success in procuring recruits, as funds were wanting, and the tribes were not disposed to make common cause with a Commander who had not rendered himself popular during his stay at Oojdah.

Bu Amama, to whom I referred above, is no doubt known by name to your Lordship as the personage who for some years past has given much trouble on the Algerian frontier both to the French and to the Moorish authorities. It is reported that recently he suffered a severe check at the hands of some Algerian tribes during the course of one of his constant raiding expeditions.

I have received nothing but vague and contradictory information as to the Pretender himself, but I am inclined to believe that he still remains at Taza.

From the south I have had no news for the past few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 81.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March 29, 1904.*

THE reports which I received yesterday from the coast indicate that the natives are for the present fairly tranquil; but this peaceful attitude is, I gather, chiefly to be attributed to the abstention of all interference by the Government officials in local affairs. The column of troops, under the command of an uncle of the Sultan, which was dispatched to punish some unruly tribes in the Chaouia districts, still remains encamped at Dar-al-Baida, and, perhaps prudently, shows no inclination to proceed to accomplish the task with which its commander was entrusted. No attempt has been made to levy any internal taxes; and the general opinion is that the authorities are wise in refraining from taking any steps for that purpose.

The news from the extreme south is unsatisfactory. The Sus Province is evidently in a condition of civil war, but news from that outlying district is so contradictory and untrustworthy that it is difficult to form a clear idea of the actual state of affairs. All reports agree in stating that the inter-tribal fighting is constant and determined. Mr. Vice-Consul Madden reports that agitation on a considerable scale has arisen among the Harrarta tribe, round Mogador, who are collecting for the purpose of ousting their Governor. This movement, Mr. Madden fears, may extend.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 82.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord, *Tangier, March 31, 1904.*

MR. F. CAVENDISH BENTINCK has recently made a journey to Melilla, Nemours, Lalla Marnia, and Oojdah, and was good enough to give me an account of his trip. The French Minister here supplied him with letters of recommendation to the frontier authorities, who gave him every facility for visiting the places he desired to see. At Melilla he found several hundred refugees, chiefly women and children, who had fled into the Spanish lines, where they are being fed and well treated. He also visited the Customs posts on the Moorish side of the lines, which are now occupied

by officials of the Pretender, who collect the duties without hindrance. At the time of Mr. Bentinck's visit there was tranquillity in the neighbourhood of Melilla, but he was informed that the inter-tribal fighting had been very severe, and that several wounded had been brought into the Spanish military hospital.

From Lalla Marnia Mr. Bentinck rode to Oojdah, where he was well received by the French officer, who for some months past has resided in that town. He ascertained that the Moorish garrison had left a few days previously in the direction of the Riff country, to the great relief of the civil population. The garrison had suffered many hardships during their stay at Oojdah, owing to want of pay and scarcity of food, and had eked out a subsistence by frequent robberies from the inhabitants. The immediate vicinity of Oojdah was strewn with dead animals, and Mr. Bentinck was informed that the garrison had been greatly reduced in numbers by deaths and numerous desertions. I may mention that the latest reports state that the garrison has been compelled to halt on its journey to the Riff country, owing to the tribes threatening to resist its further advance.

The lieutenants of the Pretender are busy among the tribes between Ain Sidi Muluk and Oojdah, and should they advance on the latter town they would meet with practically no opposition, as the place is denuded of troops. The French Minister tells me that he doubts if the rebels will venture to occupy Oojdah, as he considers that the presence there of French military officials and its vicinity to the Algerian frontier constitute substantial safeguards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 83.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 15.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 15, 1904.

I AM informed by M. Saint René Taillandier that Commandant Fariau, the new Chief of the French Military Mission at Fez, will leave for the capital in the course of a day or two. Comte Saint Aulaire, a Secretary of the French Legation here, is to accompany him, and is to remain at Fez in order to take part in the loan negotiations.

Comte Saint Aulaire has been instructed to study the situation at Fez, and probably also to explain to the Moorish Government the nature and scope of the recent Agreement.

M. Zangarussiano, the agent of the French Bank, will follow later.

No. 84.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 49.)
My Lord,

Tangier, April 6, 1904.

M. SANGRUSSIANO, the agent for the Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas, arrived here a few days ago, and I understand that he proposes to leave shortly for Fez to negotiate a loan with the Moorish Government.

I inquired of the French Minister whether he could inform me of the terms of the loan, but he said that the conditions were not yet finally determined, and that it would be necessary for M. Sangrussiano to await some further communications from his principals in Paris, and also to discuss certain points with him here. I observed that presumably the Customs revenues would be taken as guarantees for the service of the loan, and that all the liabilities of the Moorish Government would be discharged.

M. Saint-René Taillandier said that this would probably be the case, but that in the first place it was necessary to ascertain exactly the amount of the indebtedness of the Moorish Government, which might be a matter of some little difficulty. I asked if it were proposed to make any advances to the Moorish Government in anticipation of the conclusion of the negotiations, as, according to my information, they were in need of ready money. My French colleague replied that he had doubts whether this would be practicable, but that he was not in a osition to give a positive opinion on that point. In reply to a further inquiry, he

stated that it might be a little premature to insist on a direct control over the expenditure of the proceeds of the loan, as it was advisable to move prudently and cautiously in such matters.

On a former occasion M. Saint-René Taillandier had been very emphatic on the necessity of not allowing the Moorish Government a free hand in disposing of the proceeds of a loan; and I imagine that his reserve on the present occasion is to be attributed to a desire to await the results of the negotiations at present proceeding in London, on the conclusion of which he expects to receive instructions as to the course he should follow in dealing with the financial situation in Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 85.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord,

Tangier, April 8, 1904.

THE reports which I have received this week from the coast towns record little change in the general situation, and furnish no information of special interest. Apparently no active disturbances are at present occurring, and the several caravan roads are said to be fairly safe and open to traffic. It is a little difficult to follow the various adventures which have befallen the several provincial Governors on their return from Fez to their respective districts. Some have succeeded in securing the good-will of the tribes under their jurisdiction, and have been suffered to remain on condition of not exercising any authority which might be irksome or displeasing. Others have been driven away, and have seen their castles demolished and their flocks and herds captured; while others have had to contend with rival Governors who have been elected by parties in opposition to the Government.

A native correspondent of long experience writes to me as follows, and I think his views, though somewhat quaintly expressed, are approximately true:—

"Whenever the Sultan's authorities send letters to the tribes, they reply 'God assist the Sultan, but we will not accept either old or new Governors until the Sultan is among us.' This is what they have done and are doing. When authority is restored, the Sultan can levy taxes on the tribes by instalments, as has been done before. But, oh friend, I tell you frankly that the tribes are daily getting stronger, buying horses, guns, &c., having such stores of wheat as they have never had, and God has completed it to them with this present harvest, the like of which I have never heard of before nor have I seen. Authority, therefore, will never touch them, nor any one exercise jurisdiction over them. The Makhzen (Government) has no helper but God, and no one to conduct its affairs."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 86.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord,

Tangier, April 9, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Belgian Minister, Comte de Buisseret, leaves here on the 14th or 15th instant for Fez, in order to present his credentials to the Sultan. Comte de Buisseret is accompanied, in addition to the staff of the Legation, by two Belgian cavalry officers and a doctor, who have arrived from Brussels. It is several years since a Belgian Mission has visited the Shereefian Court, and the present moment does not seem to be very happily chosen for the dispatch of a ceremonious Embassy.

I understand that the Belgian Minister has no important matters to discuss with the Moorish Government, but a rumour reached me some weeks ago that a Belgian Company was considering the question of obtaining a concession for the establishment of wireless telegraphy between Tangier and the coast towns. I have therefore requested Sir H. Maclean to intimate to the Moorish Government from myself that,

should the Belgian Minister allude to this subject, it would be well that the foreign Representatives should be consulted before any decision was arrived at, and that it should not be forgotten that a proposal which I had previously made for wireless telegraphy at Lloyd's signal station was the first in the field, and was therefore entitled to priority of treatment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 87.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 9, 1904.

I AM informed from Fez that a portion of the Ghiata tribe, which has hitherto been the most stalwart among the followers of the Pretender, recently sent a deputation to the Court with offers of submission. The deputation received a cordial welcome from the Moorish Government, and was informed that if the Pretender were delivered over to the Sultan the tribe would receive a full pardon for the past and a handsome gratuity in money.

My informant was unable to ascertain whether the deputation was sincere in its expressions of repentance, or whether it represented any considerable section of the Ghiata tribe; but it has returned to the neighbourhood of Taza, having accepted the proposals of the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 88.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 16.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 10, 1904.

MR. ABENSUR, who is in correspondence with the Anglo-Jewish Association in London, communicated to me the inclosed copy of a letter which the agent at Fez of the Alliance Israelite has addressed to his principals at Paris in regard to the sufferings of the Jews in Sefroo. The Alliance Israelite wrote to the French Minister here on the subject, and I have consulted with M. Saint René Taillandier whether any steps likely to lead to any useful results could be taken. He agreed with me that it would be practically impossible to transfer so powerful and independent a Governor as Omar-el-Joussi to the south of Morocco. Even if the Sultan were willing to accede to any requests for the removal of that personage to another sphere, it is extremely doubtful that His Majesty would have the power to carry the measure into execution; and an attempt which miscarried would render the situation still worse.

It is also evident, from the letter of M. Valadgi, that if Omar-el-Joussi learnt that the Jews had complained respecting his treatment of them, he would endeavour to render their lot still harder, and representations from the Moorish Government on their behalf would find little response.

Both my French colleagues and myself consider, therefore, that at present no steps could usefully be adopted, and that it would be desirable, in the interests of the unfortunate inhabitants themselves, to defer taking any action until a more favourable opportunity presented itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 88.

M. Valadji to the President of the Alliance Israélite, Paris.

M. le Président, *Fez, le* 11 *Mars*, 1904.

DES nouvelles navrantes nous viennent de Seffrou.

Vous savez que le territoire de Seffrou est sous la juridiction de Caïd Omar-el-Joussi, un des plus grands tyrans du Maroc. Le Sultan lui-même le craint et ferme les yeux sur les actes de ce potentat parce qu'il sait que derrière lui, Omar-el-Joussi a des tribus turbulentes dont il est le maître absolu et qu'il sait tenir en respect par les moyens les plus radicaux.

Depuis la redoutable crise qui a mis à deux doigts de sa perte la dynastie actuelle, il n'y a pas de tribu qui ne soit un peu agitée contre l'autorité du Sultan. Seuls les Joussis sont restés tranquilles, non par loyalisme, mais par peur de leur Caïd Omar-el-Joussi. C'est à un tel homme qu'ont à faire nos pauvres Juifs de Seffrou.

Caïd Omar-el-Joussi les traite absolument comme les seigneurs du moyen-âge traitaient les sujets qui habitaient leurs domaines. Les Juifs sont traités par lui en vrai esclaves. Veut-il construire une maison? Il expédie au Mellah une escouade de Mokhaouis qui saisissent au collet autant d'ouvriers que leur maître désire et somment la communauté de lui fournir briques, chaux, bois, &c. A-t-il à se debarrasser d'un stock important de mauvais blé datant de dix ou quinze ans, par conséquent dangereux pour la santé, il force les pauvres Juifs à le lui acheter, dussent-ils attraper les plus terribles maladies, ce qui est le cas depuis quelques mois. Veut-il faire la cueillette de ses olives? Ordre est donné à tous les habitants du Mellah de se rendre dans ses propriétés et de s'acquitter de cette besogne sans aucun salaire. A-t-il besoin de babouches, de selles, de savon, de bêtes de somme, de poules? Il force les Juifs à les lui fournir.

Et les Juifs lui fournissent tout, se soumettent à tout. Ils ne peuvent même pas écrire des lettres à Fez, se plaindre au Sultan. Omar-el-Joussi, s'il venait à le savoir, redoublerait de cruauté à leur égard. Force leur est de se taire et de souffrir en silence.

Mais tout a une fin. Le mauvais blé dont je vous envoie par poste recommandée des échantillons, a engendré des maladies qui ont occasionné beaucoup de décès. La cherté des vivres, accentuée encore plus par l'obligation où les met Omar-el-Joussi de se fournir chez lui, ont amené certains Notables de Seffrou à nous faire connaître en cachette et sans se compromettre par leurs signatures les points essentiels sur lesquels se porte le despotisme d'Omar-el-Joussi.

Je vous envoie copie de ce document, dont l'importance ne vous échappera pas.

J'ai convoqué les grands Rabbins et quelques Notables de notre ville à notre École et je leur ai demandé s'ils pouvaient intervenir auprès du Makhzen en faveur de nos malheureux frères de Seffrou. Ils m'ont démontré que leur intervention serait désastreuse non seulement pour les Juifs de Seffrou, mais pour ceux de Fez. Omar-el-Joussi est homme à se venger et de ceux-ci et de ceux-là. Tous unanimement m'ont engagé à saisir l'Alliance de cette triste affaire. L'Alliance, de concert avec l'Anglo-Jewish Association et avec le concours des Ministres de France et d'Angleterre, pourraient porter remède à la triste situation de nos malheureux frères de Seffrou.

Les Ministres de France et d'Angleterre à Tanger pourraient seuls obtenir du Sultan la destitution du tyran Omar-el-Joussi et sa rélégation au sud du Maroc, bien loin de Seffrou. Ce dernier point est très important. Si Omar-el-Joussi était simplement destitué et restait dans le territoire de Seffrou, il serait capable de soulever tous les Berbères contre les Juifs de Seffrou, ce qui amènerait inévitablement une catastrophe.

Les pauvres Juifs de Seffrou se meurent sous la tyrannie du Caïd Omar-el-Joussi. Jamais, même en Perse, on n'a vu un tel traitement infligé à la population Juive de toute une ville.

(Signé) VALADJI.

No. 89.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, April 11, 1904.*

I MET the French Ambassador yesterday, who had not seen the text of the Agreement most happily come to between the Governments of England and France respecting Egypt and Morocco; and I ventured to-day when he called to let him take a copy of it, begging him to consider it for his personal use only, as I could not make communication of the text to any one else without instructions.

He told me that he thought that it would probably be M. Delcassé who would inform the Spanish Ambassador of the particulars of the understanding, and subsequently enter into negotiations with M. Leon y Castillo for the protection of Spanish interests.

I told him that it seemed the natural wish of my Government that no time should be lost in approaching and settling matters with the Spanish Government.

M. Cambon, who entered at length into the previous history of the Morocco negotiations and agreed with his brother that it would have been hopeless to negotiate "à trois," appears delighted at the understanding come to between the two countries, and thought, with me, that it was well that pourparlers with Spain should begin as soon as possible; but M. Delcassé had to go for a few days to the country.

As to the prospect of Agreement with Spain when I spoke to him yesterday, he seemed to anticipate no difficulty; and to-day, when I reverted to the subject, he seemed to think the only obstacle might be the King's military spirit which has been fostered by His Royal Mother, the late Queen Regent, and which might make His Majesty desire an opportunity for a brush with the Moors.

As for the other Powers, the German Ambassador's language was that if the same commercial advantages in Morocco were granted to Germany as to France and England, he was pleased at the arrangement.

From Italy no objection is to be expected—the only person who might encourage the Spaniards to make complaints is the Russian Ambassador here, M. Schevitch, who, having no business of his own to transact, out of pure idleness and mischief interferes with his advice to the Spanish Minister of State in all kinds of matters.

I answered that I could not believe that the Spanish Minister would really take seriously anything that M. Schevitch might say on his own account.

M. Cambon regretted that it was never certain here what idea may not be taken up violently by the press. This I said was an argument for his Government rapidly clinching the question with the present Spanish Government.

His Excellency agreed with me that, so far, the attitude of the Spanish press is not seriously hostile to our reported arrangement respecting Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 90.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 44. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, April 15, 1904.*

I ASKED the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day whether there had been any communications between M. Delcassé and M. Leon y Castillo on the subject of Morocco and the Anglo-French Agreement.

He answered he had no news of any kind and that he was somewhat surprised at it; but supposed that M. Leon y Castillo's time was taken up with the arrangements consequent on Queen Isabella's death.

I told him I had heard that M. Delcassé had some provincial visit to make.

In conversation, I mentioned that it was unlucky that M. Leon y Castillo questioned M. Delcassé a few hours before the signature of the Agreement. Had he made his inquiry a day later the impression here of undue secrecy and of having been neglected would not have been created.

M. de San Pedro, on my assuring him that, on the side of my Government and,

to the best of my belief, of the French Government too, there was an earnest desire to respect Spanish interests, appeared to be perfectly satisfied, and he thoroughly understood the reasons which made the arrangement between two instead of three, and that His Majesty's Government had left to France as the most interested party the negotiation with Spain.

He said he had some weeks ago instructed the Duc de Mandas to mention to your Lordship that, for commercial reasons, it would be well if a portion of the North African coast were under Spanish influence.

His Excellency appears to have confidence in your Lordship's consideration for the interests of Spain, and is grateful that you have already given proof of this by recommending the early commencement of negotiations in Paris between the French and Spanish Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 91.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April 19, 1904.*

ANGLO-FRENCH Agreement.

Copies of the Agreement will have reached you by last bag.

As soon as you consider it desirable, you may convey a message to the Sultan, reassuring him as to the objects of the Convention as regards Morocco, and explaining its provisions.

No. 92.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 23. Most Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, April 20, 1904.*

SPAIN and Morocco.

I met the Spanish Ambassador to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and he begged me to inform your Lordship that the situation is very strained between Spain and France.

Some days ago he made serious representations, and neither then nor to-day got any satisfaction.

He implied that, since the signature of the Anglo-French Agreement, the French Government have reduced to a minimum the offers made to Spain, and that they have now retracted the promises made for some time past with regard to the future position of Spain in Morocco.

In a day or two I am to have an interview with him, but he is anxious in the interval that I should bring the foregoing to your Lordship's knowledge.

The report that there has ever been any definite agreement between Spain and France with reference to the respective position in Morocco of the two countries, at a future date, is, however, denied by his Excellency.

No. 93.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 20.)

(No. 29.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 20, 1904.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 12 of yesterday's date.

I propose to wait till I hear how news of Agreement has been received at Fez, in order that I may frame a message to the Sultan accordingly.

Amongst the Moors in the coast towns there is, I understand, considerable feeling regarding the Agreement, but this was to be expected, and in all probability it will pass away.

I shall not receive the bag containing copies of the Agreement until to-morrow.

No. 94.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 48. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 20, 1904.

IMMEDIATELY after my conversation with the French Ambassador, recorded in my despatch to Sir E. Monson, No. 199, of the 20th April, I received a visit from the Spanish Ambassador, who informed me that the Spanish Government was much perturbed because nothing had yet been said to them by the French Government on the subject of the recently-concluded Agreement with regard to Morocco. His Excellency had gathered from what I had said to him on previous occasions that no time would be lost by the French Government in making a communication to them. No such communication had, however, he believed, yet been made.

I told his Excellency that I had not been at all surprised that the French Government should have said nothing before the Agreement between France and Great Britain was concluded. I had, however, just seen the French Ambassador, and I had learned from him that M. Delcassé and the Spanish Ambassador had met on Friday last, and were to meet again yesterday. M. Cambon had assured me that proposals, which seemed to me to offer a reasonable basis for discussion, would be made to the Ambassador. I told the Duc de Mandas that M. Cambon had made this announcement to me unsolicited, and that I felt convinced that there was no desire on M. Delcassé's part to evade the question. I added that I had every reason to hope that the communication which the French Gevernment would make would be found in principle acceptable to the Spanish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 95.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 24. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, April* 21, 1904.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 45.

Spain and Morocco.

Spanish Ambassador, who had, I fancy, been confiding his complaints to the German Ambassador, was greatly excited yesterday. I will endeavour to ascertain details to-morrow in time for bag. His Excellency promised to see me to-day, but has not done so.

The text of alleged Secret Treaty, between Spain and France, of the 11th November, 1902, for eventual partition of Morocco, will be sent to your Lordship to-night by post. I was assured by Spanish Ambassador yesterday that such a Treaty had never been made.

The day after to-morrow M. Delcassé leaves Paris for Rome.

No. 96.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April* 21, 1904.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 23, Confidential, of yesterday.

It is hard to reconcile the language which the Spanish Ambassador used to you with that employed by the French Ambassador to me, the latter stating yesterday that M. Delcassé would make reasonable proposals to satisfy the needs of Spain when he met the Spanish Ambassador on Tuesday.

Without entering into details, I have since informed the Spanish Ambassador of the statement made by M. Cambon.

It seems incredible to me that the French Government are deceiving both sides.

Have you received any account of the proposals which M. Delcassé actually made to Spain?

To-morrow's bag will bring you a detailed account of the conversation I had yesterday.

No. 97.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 14, 1904.

THE announcement that an Agreement had been signed between Great Britain and France affecting Morocco aroused considerable interest here, both among natives and European circles. As no one has yet received the full text of the Agreement, comments have been confined to the summaries which have reached the public; and it is premature to attempt to form an opinion as to the impression which will be produced on the native mind. It is to be hoped that exaggerated reports as to the scope of foreign intervention in the affairs of the country will not be disseminated among an ignorant and fanatical population; and much will depend on the mode in which the reorganization of the finances, army, and administration is carried out. Until some initiatory steps in this direction are taken it would be prudent to abstain from speculations as to the public feeling.

At the same time, it is possible to appreciate the difficulties which have to be overcome. The whole fabric of administration is in a precarious condition of instability. The necessary reconstructions and repairs will require some considerable time, and in the prosecution of this work it will be difficult to secure competent and willing native assistance. The first task undoubtedly must be to find the ways and means; and recourse must be had to other sources of revenue than those supplied by the Customs. The collection of internal taxes is an inevitable necessity, and to successfully proceed to this measure troops must be available to enforce it. The assertion of Government authority is urgently required, and a force sufficient for the purpose will have to be collected and organized.

These elementary measures in any other country would be easily adopted, but in a country where ways of communication are practically non-existent, where the Government are discredited, where the official clan is corrupt and fanatical, without either initiative or education, and where the population is distracted and divided by inter-tribal feuds and restive against authority, the laying of the foundations of a good and orderly administration must be an arduous task.

It is doubtful if a warm and hearty co-operation will be at first accorded by high officials in the efforts which may be made by their advisers; but if the agents who will reside at the Court are carefully selected, and if they act with tact and patience, it will be possible in time to proceed to further reforms and developments. The people generally will also eventually realize the advantages of order and security, and will appreciate the benefits of an increased trade and more remunerative markets. The main difficulties will arise in the early stages; and it is a matter for regret that in Morocco, perhaps alone among nations, there is no young and rising generation who has acquired a wider education than their elders, and who is desirous of seeing the country progress and develop. Everything has to be created in Morocco, and results must not be expected too soon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON

No. 98.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 15, 1904.

THE Commission d'Hygiène of this town, which is intrusted with the local administration for sanitary and other purposes, is solely dependent on voluntary contributions and on a modest revenue derived from the slaughter-houses and landing jetty. The rapid growth of Tangier and the increasing responsibilities thrown upon the Commission are rendering it annually more difficult for the above duties to be satisfactorily discharged; and until rates and taxes are introduced the present very scanty revenues do not suffice.

Some years ago, as I reported in my despatch No. 2 of the 3rd January, 1899, it was proposed to supplement the revenues by a small tax on every package passing through the Customs; but His Majesty's Government demurred to this proposal on

the ground that it bore the appearance of an indirect increase of customs duties. It was suggested that this objection might be obviated if the tax were characterized as one for storage purposes, and if it were levied upon packages deposited in the custom-house.

I brought this suggestion before my colleagues, but, owing to various circumstances of a local nature, it was found to be difficult to arrange for the collection of such a storage due.

The Commission d'Hygiène have now once more made an earnest appeal to the Diplomatic Body for some assistance in meeting the ever-increasing calls upon them; and in the public interests I would venture to submit and recommend the suggestions they have made. They propose to be authorized to levy a "droit de péage" of 5 centimes on packages entering the town by the Marine Gate, and I beg leave to inclose a Memorandum explaining the mode of assessment and collection of this small due. My colleagues, subject to the approval of their respective Governments, have all expressed their concurrence in the proposals, and I trust I may receive your Lordship's sanction.

Tangier is now a town of over 40,000 inhabitants, and unless the Commission d'Hygiène is in a position to continue its work, modest and circumscribed as it is, the public health will undoubtedly suffer. The small revenues at its disposal are, I can assure your Lordship, at present inadequate, and the proposal now made for increasing them is, I submit, reasonable and justifiable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Memorandum.

Droit de Péage.

IL est établi un droit de péage de 5 centimes par colis, qui sera prélevé par la Commission d'Hygiène de Tanger.

2. Il sera demandé aux Compagnies de Navigation Maritime ou agents de voiliers de cabotage de prêter leur concours, comme il est dit plus loin, pour le recouvrement de ce droit sur les colis passant par la porte dite de "la Marina."

3. En raison des Conventions Internationales sont affranchis de ce droit tous les colis postaux. Sont également affranchis les légumes et les fruits verts, les poissons frais, les bagages de voyageurs, et les emballages vides.

4. Les marchandises vendues par quantités multiples et qui ne peuvent être considérées comme un colis pour chaque unité seront taxées comme suit:—briques, tuiles, carreaux en tous genres en vrac, 5 centimes le 1,000.

Poutrelles de fer, de bois, madriers, tuyaux en terre ou autres, sacs de plâtre et chaux hydraulique et ciment, par douzaine, 5 centimes. Le charbon et tout autre combustible et toutes marchandises en vrac, 5 centimes par tonne. Animaux et bétail, par tête, 5 centimes.

Perception du Droit.

Il sera perçu un timbre taxe de 5 centimes, qui sera vendu par les agences maritimes, et que les chargeurs ou récepteurs appliqueront sur les bons à retirer ou à embarquer les colis. Ce timbre aurait pour unique but d'éviter les écritures aux Compagnies de Navigation, tout en permettant à la Commission d'Hygiène d'avoir sans aucun frais le contrôle le plus absolu.

Exemple.

Marseilles perçoit—	
Droit de statistique	10 centimes par colis.
Péage	5 centimes par colis.
Gabarage	5 pour cent sur le fret.

No. 99.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 22.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)

Tangier, April 16, 1904.

My Lord,

THE French Minister informed me yesterday that he was sending Comte St. Aulaire, a secretary of the Legation, to Fez in company with Commandant Fariau, the newly-appointed chief of the French Military Mission. M. St. René Taillandier stated that the Mission of Comte St. Aulaire was in the nature of a reconnaissance, as he was desirous of obtaining some trustworthy intelligence as to the position of affairs at the Court, and he also wished that his secretary should be present at Fez during the negotiations for the loan. M. Zangarussiano, the agent of the group which would finance the loan, would proceed in a few days to the capital, but it was considered desirable that the negotiations should not be exclusively conducted by a financial agent, who would probably treat the question solely from one point of view. The loan, my French colleague continued, would be for 50,000,000 fr., and would be employed in paying off the previous loans and in discharging the more pressing liabilities of the Moorish Government. A certain portion would also have to be put aside to form the nucleus of an Army Budget, and the remainder would be gradually furnished to the Moorish Government to meet current expenses. The guarantees for the payment of dividends would naturally have to be supplied by the customs revenues, and some method would have to be devised for securing a control over these revenues without bringing into unnecessary prominence the fact of foreign supervision.

I remarked that when the existing loans had been paid off, and the other liabilities of the Moorish Government discharged, the surplus of the loan proceeds would not suffice to carry on the administration for any lengthy period. The French Minister replied that this was true, and it was evident that measures must be taken for the collection of internal taxes. For this object it would be necessary to create and organize, as rapidly as possible, some military or police force, which would have to be considerably leavened with a trained element. This could be found by the infusion into the ranks of Algerian non-commissioned officers and men: and in the organization of this force he had every confidence in Commandant Fariau, who was a man of tact and experience, and who had rendered very useful services during a long residence in Algeria.

M. St. René Taillandier added that the task of re-establishing order in the country would be a somewhat lengthy process; and, apart from the Foreign Minister and the Minister of War, there were few men at the Court who would be of much assistance, or, indeed, who were competent of rendering useful services. The Sultan, he stated, might be at first a little perturbed when he was informed that an Agreement had been actually signed, but he thought that the straits in which His Majesty and his Government found themselves placed, and the impossibility of extracting themselves therefrom without foreign assistance, would convince them that friendly aid and advice were a necessity and of advantage to them. He might, he said, tell me, confidentially, that he had good grounds for his belief that His Majesty would not view with disfavour French co-operation, as some time ago His Majesty had written privately to him requesting his good offices in procuring financial assistance from France. This appeal, he thought, was a satisfactory sign for the future.

The above statement of the French Minister confirms the report which I communicated to your Lordship in my despatch No. 34, Confidential, of the 24th February, and in regard to which, at the time, I expressed some doubts.

M. St. René Taillandier concluded his remarks by saying that he was fully alive to the necessity of proceeding with great caution in the work of reorganization, and no one was more conscious than himself of the difficulty of the task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 100.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 25. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, April 22, 1904.*

SPAIN and Morocco.

I am informed by the Spanish Ambassador that, more than a year ago an Agreement as to the eventual partition of Morocco was drawn up in Paris, but was never signed, because the approval of Great Britain was insisted upon by Spain as a preliminary condition.

M. Delcassé now offers greatly diminished advantages, and repudiates this Agreement.

The personal relations of M. Delcassé and the Spanish Ambassador are now very strained indeed, as he considers that M. Delcassé has been guilty of bad faith.

The Spanish Ambassador in London is, in the Marquis del Muni's opinion, unacquainted with all the details of the negotiations which have taken place, and the document which I forwarded yesterday he again asserts to be entirely apocryphal.

To-night I will send further details by messenger.

No. 101.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 22. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, April 22, 1904.*

MOROCCO. With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 16 of yesterday, I learn from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the claim put forward by the French Government includes the Muluya River. This implies an extension of Algerian territory at the expense of Spain, as that Power is established at the Zaffarine Islands and at Melilla.

No. 102.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 23. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, April 22, 1904.*

MOROCCO. With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 16 of yesterday, I understand that for a long time past the Spanish Ambassador in Paris has believed, and has reported to his Government, that his influence with the French Government was such that he could without other assistance negotiate a satisfactory arrangement between the two countries.

His extreme views on the present juncture are thus probably the result of his disillusion.

I told the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that his Ambassador must show patience in dealing with the negotiation, and that I could not allow myself to have any doubts as to the good faith of France's action.

No. 103.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, April 22, 1904.*

I AM assured by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that no written or definite arrangement as to the future of Morocco has ever existed between France and this country.

No. 104.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 42.)
Foreign Office, April 22, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 52 of the 9th instant, reporting the intended departure for Fez on the 14th or 15th instant of the Belgian Minister at Tangier, in order to present his credentials to the Sultan.

I approve your message to Sir H. Maclean, in view of the possibility of allusion being made by Comte de Buisseret, during his visit to the Shereefian Court, to the subject of a Belgian concession for the establishment of wireless telegraphy between Tangier and the coast towns.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 105.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 233. Secret and Most Confidential.)
Paris, April 22, 1904.

My Lord,

AFTER I had seen M. Delcassé the day before yesterday I found in the ante-chamber at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs my Spanish colleague, the Marquis del Muni, who, in a very excited manner, entered into conversation with me.

He plunged, I may say, *in medias res*, repeating half a dozen times, "ça ne marche pas"; and when I said I supposed that he referred to his negotiations with M. Delcassé, proceeded to inveigh against the attitude and conduct of the latter, saying that it had been such that the situation between them was very strained, and that he must beg me to inform your Lordship at once that such was the case.

I said that I would, of course, do so, but that I should like to know what had happened, to which he replied that M. Delcassé had broken faith with him; and after promising a satisfactory arrangement with Spain, had now gone back from his word.

It being impossible to carry on the conversation in the ante-chamber of the Minister, I said that I would call upon him next day, and learn the particulars; but he insisted that he would himself come to me, and we separated on that understanding, after he had assured me, in reference to the report that Mr. Gibson Bowles was to question the Government in the House of Commons that evening upon the authenticity of the Secret Treaty alleged to have been concluded between France and Spain, that the story was without foundation.

He failed to come to see me yesterday, and I did not succeed in finding him in the afternoon; but I was able to arrange for his visit this morning, and he spent an hour with me in very excited conversation.

He gave me to understand that, although the Secret Treaty, the text of which I forwarded to your Lordship yesterday, was apocryphal, the "pourparlers" which he had for a long time continued with M. Delcassé resulted more than a year ago in the drawing up of a "projet" at the Quai d'Orsay, the tenour of which was entirely satisfactory to the Spanish Government. The "projet" was the work of M. Lecomte, Sous-Directeur-Adjoint at the Ministry, who, it may be remembered, was employed on the French side in the negotiations on West Africa, which were carried on in Paris between Great Britain and France in 1898.

In virtue of this document the rights of Spain were recognized not only on the coast-line from Melilla to the right bank of the Sebu, where that river enters the sea, but the inland frontier from the latter point would have been carried eastwards so as to include Fez and all the circumjacent regions. Moreover, in South-West Morocco the whole of the Sus province with the coast-line down to Cape Juby (upon which latter it was understood that Great Britain had renounced all claim), with the hinterland giving access to the caravan route to Timbuctoo, would have been recognized as belonging to the Spanish sphere.

This arrangement, which was approved at Madrid, exists in so formal a shape that its authenticity cannot be disputed; but it was never signed because the Spanish Government insisted that Great Britain should be consulted before the Agreement was made valid by a formal signature. To this condition M. Delcassé would never signify his consent.

A comparatively short time before the conclusion of the Anglo-French Agreement, my Spanish colleague, convinced that there was no time to lose, went to Madrid and urged his Government to take steps to secure the maintenance of the rights which would accrue to Spain under the unconcluded Treaty before referred to.

He did not succeed in persuading them to take action, his representations being met by the argument that the good faith of France and the loyal intentions of England were sufficient security against the danger.

The Spanish Ambassador seems to have lost no time, however, in submitting to M. Delcassé, after the signature of the Anglo-French Agreement, the necessity of an immediate recognition of the Spanish claims. He was informed, however, by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs that the attitude of the Colonial Group and of the Opposition, led by M. Ribot, as evidenced by a speech delivered some time ago by that Deputy, made it clear that the Government would have to modify the "projet" as far as Fez was concerned, and that it would be impossible for France to agree to the eventual cession to Spain of that valuable element of the Agreement.

The Spanish Government, very much against their will, had signified their assent to this modification on condition of compensation being given in South-West Morocco, where they claimed that they should receive the southern slopes of the Atlas Mountains, the crests of which would then become the frontier line instead of the River Sus.

M. Delcassé answered to this proposal that he would reflect upon it and consult the Cabinet; but a few days subsequently he informed my Spanish colleague not only that France could not agree to this, but that she could not even consent to give the northern coast line as far as the River Sebu, but would fix the frontier nearer Dar-el-Chres, and that, moreover, she must retain in her possession the Chafarinas Islands, which my Spanish colleague assures me are a most important strategical group, capable of being converted into a second Gibraltar.

A violent altercation appears to have ensued, in the course of which very hard words were exchanged. It ended by the Spanish Ambassador telling M. Delcassé that his Government would never, if he could help it, humiliate Spain by accepting such an arrangement, and by the French Minister retorting, more or less explicitly, that that was Spain's affair, and that she need not expect better terms.

My Spanish colleague stated this morning that he has referred to Madrid for instructions, and supposed that his Government would appeal to your Lordship on the ground that they had a moral right to the support of His Majesty's Government as having refused to enter into any definite engagement with France without British approval.

He added that he and M. Delcassé are now hardly on speaking terms, but he begged me most urgently not to tell his Excellency what had passed between us, and to ask your Lordship to regard this communication as secret.

As M. Delcassé leaves Paris to-morrow for Rome in company of the President, and will not return till the 1st May, nothing more is likely to be done for some little time.

In giving your Lordship the preceding sketch of my conversation with the Spanish Ambassador, I think it as well to add that while I believe I have given the details of the territorial proposals with tolerable accuracy, I cannot vouch for their absolute correctness, my colleague's extreme vivacity and faulty French making it sometimes difficult to follow him with certainty.

He does not think that the Duc de Mandas has a detailed knowledge either of the previous negotiations or of what has passed recently in Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 106.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 26. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, April 23, 1904.*

MY telegram No. 24.

Spain and Morocco.

I am assured by the Spanish Ambassador that the subject has not been mentioned by him to the German Ambassador, or to any other member of the Corps Diplomatique here.

No. 107.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 23.)

(No 31. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 23, 1904.*

ASPIRATIONS of Spain in Morocco.

In speaking to me on this subject the French Minister strongly expressed the opinion that it would be impracticable, and, indeed, dangerous to the cause of peace, to grant to Spain any territorial concessions in Morocco, as intervention would, he considers, eventually become necessary, owing to her inability to maintain order in her sphere.

My Spanish colleague also has, I gather, misgivings as to the wisdom of extending the Spanish settlements in Morocco, or of seeking for any territorial compensation.

I naturally abstained from expressing to my colleagues any opinion on this subject.

I report the foregoing merely local views for what they are worth.

No. 108.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April 23, 1904.*

SPAIN and Morocco: Your despatch No. 233, Secret, of yesterday.

It seems to me probable that the account given by the Spanish Ambassador of the negotiations of 1902 is inaccurate. It is entirely different from that which I received from M. Cambon.

I do not think that Fez can ever have been offered to Spain by the French; and, as regards the Zaffarines, these islands belong to Spain, and I do not see how M. Delcassé can have said that they must be retained by France. But the French Government will probably assert that their frontier has already been put forward to the Muluya River, judging from the French Ambassador's remarks to me.

No. 109.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 27. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, April 24, 1904.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 46 of yesterday.

Spain and Morocco.

Spanish Ambassador's description of past negotiations, including cession of Fez, is maintained by him as accurate.

He explains that he meant to convey to me that by the French claim of coast-line the Zaffarin Islands are virtually rendered French on account of their being dominated by the shore close to which they lie. Otherwise he maintains that his description of the present situation is also accurate.

The original of the unsigned Agreement of 1902 is at Madrid: it is in the handwriting of M. Lecomte.

Spanish Ambassador does not expect, until Prime Minister returns to Madrid, to receive any definite instructions, but his Excellency says that Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs has given expression to his bewilderment at attitude of French Government.

He caused a rumour concerning his recall, which was circulated yesterday morning, to be contradicted in the evening papers.

His excitement is naturally intensified by his personal resentment and disappointment.

No. 110.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April 24.*)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 24, 1904.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 20 of to-day's date.

Spain has, generally speaking, no influence whatever beyond the limits of her settlements, and at present I am sure she has none outside the lines of Melilla. What amount of influence is exercised by France in the districts between the River Muluya and the frontier I am unable to state, but in the northern portions I should think it was considerable.

For a long time past French writers and others have pointed out the advantages of the frontier being at the River Muluya, but at this juncture I should have thought that an official claim to the extension of the frontier would be unnecessary and impolitic in view of the recent Agreement.

No. 111.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, April 24, 1904.*

WITH reference to my immediately preceding telegram repeating Sir E. Egerton's telegram No. 22 of the 22nd instant.

Please furnish report on extent of French and Spanish influence in the region between the Algerian frontier and the Muluya River.

No. 112.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April 25.*)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, April 25, 1904.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 32 of the 24th instant from His Majesty's Representative at Tangier.

To best of my belief France is not officially making claim to more than sphere of influence.

No. 113.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April 26.*)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 26, 1904.*

THE news of the Anglo-French Agreement would appear, from information which I am receiving from the interior and the coast towns, to have caused a good deal of talk of a threatening and wild nature and considerable excitement amongst the natives.

The nature of the Agreement has doubtless been exaggerated by the country people, whose animosity is directed against their own Government, whom they consider to have handed over the country to France, as well as against the prospect of French control.

As it is not probable that the French will show any outward sign of their control for some time, I hope that the present excited state will calm down gradually, but a great deal depends upon those who are hostile to the Sultan and his Government, and on what advantage they take of the situation.

I have not yet heard how the Agreement has been received at the capital.

No. 114.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April 27.*)

(No. 241. Secret.)
Paris, April 25, 1904.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED yesterday your Lordship's telegram No. 46 of the 23rd instant, in which you point out the improbabilities of the description given to me by the Spanish Ambassador of his negotiations with M. Delcassé in 1902, and of the terms alleged to have been agreed upon in the unsigned Projet, as reported by me in my despatch No. 233, Secret and Most Confidential, of the 22nd instant.

I thought it as well to see M. Leon y Castillo (Marquis del Muni) as soon as possible, to verify as far as I could the points which seem to be improbable.

My Spanish colleague, however, maintained his previous assurances, and said that I had not misrepresented him. There was no doubt that in the original Agreement Fez would have been included in the Spanish portion of the division, but with regard to that advantage it had now been recognized that it would be impossible for France to cede it, and the compensation which I reported, viz., the southern slopes of the Atlas Mountains had been demanded in lieu of Fez.

His Excellency, however, admitted that he had not meant that France would seize upon the Zafaran Islands; but he explained that this group, being close to the shore which the French would include in their coast line, would be practically in the hands of France. The islets in question are not much more than a kilometre from the land, and the terms of the Anglo-French Agreement do not prevent the French from erecting fortifications at that point. M. Leon y Castillo added that he was quite prepared to hear that the French would claim that their frontier was already advanced to the Muluya River. I asked him whether he could tell me where exactly M. Delcassé proposed to fix the western limit of the coast line to be eventually placed under Spanish administration, and he replied that it would be at a short distance south of Laraiche; that is to say, at a considerable distance from the embouchure of the River Sebu, originally accepted as the line of demarcation.

I then asked his Excellency how it had happened that his recall had been rumoured in Paris the previous day; for, as he had assured me that he had told no one but myself of his dispute with M. Delcassé, I could not understand how such a report, which would certainly not be agreeable to the French Government, had been put into circulation.

M. Leon y Castillo agreed that nothing could, presumably, be known in Paris of what had passed between himself and M. Delcassé; and he attributed the rumour of his recall to the attacks made upon him in the press at Madrid, which accused him of having neglected his duties, and of having failed to warn his Government in time to safeguard Spanish interests. These attacks were very unfair, inasmuch as if his Government had followed his advice, they would have in all probability learned the nature of the policy which M. Delcassé was following, before the signature of the Anglo-French Agreement.

Throughout our interview the language of my Spanish colleague was as rancorous against M. Delcassé as on the occasion of our previous conversation. He repeated his hope that I would not mention at the Quai d'Orsay what he had told me of the dispute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 115.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 52. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, April 27, 1904.

Sir,

THE Spanish Ambassador called upon me to-day, and we resumed our conversation with regard to the negotiations between France and Spain as to Morocco.

His Excellency said that the course of events had been somewhat different to what I had been led to suppose. He told me that the negotiations which had taken place between France and Spain in 1902 had resulted in an Agreement, which had in fact been arrived at ("établi"), although it was never signed. He was able to tell

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me in strict confidence that Spain had refused to sign it because the French Government had refused to let them communicate it to us. They had received a distinct intimation that this was not agreeable to the French Government, and the matter had therefore been altogether dropped.

In 1902 the Fench had offered to Spain a sphere of influence commencing at the mouth of the Muluya River, following its course for some distance, then running to the south of Fez and to the mouth of the Sebou. The present offer was much less advantageous. It was suggested that the line should be drawn not from the mouth of the Muluya, but from Melilla, that it should run to the south-west through Ulad-abu-Rima, thence to the north of Fez, and thence to Moulay-bou-Selham (Muley-abu-Sallum on the Atlantic coast.

Again, in 1902, Spain was offered a second sphere of influence, commencing at Cape Bogador and including Sus. The present offer, instead of going as far north as Sus, stopped short at Ras Agula, a good deal further to the south. Both spheres of influence were therefore considerably curtailed under the new offer. The curtailment on the Mediterranean coast was a most serious matter. Melilla was an important Spanish fortress, and Spain also owned the Zaffarin Islands, nearly opposite to the mouth of the Muluya. It would be intolerable that the seaboard between Melilla and the Muluya should be within the French sphere. The Spanish Government thought that a mistake must have been made, and had asked for explanations, but had not yet received them.

The curtailment on the Atlantic seaboard had the effect of depriving Spain of territory in the neighbourhood of Santa Cruz which she had acquired in 1870 from the Moors.

I asked his Excellency whether I was right in my impression that nothing had been said to us by the Spanish Government as to the negotiations which took place in 1902 and the reasons for which they had been abortive. His Excellency said that it was quite true that no communication had been made to us. I also asked his Excellency whether I was not right in supposing that the present French proposal did not imply that the French frontier was to be actually advanced to the Muluya, but only that the region between the Algerian frontier and Melilla should fall within the French sphere of influence. His Excellency replied that this was the case. It seemed to him, however, quite wrong that Spain should be asked by France to accept less advantageous conditions at the present time merely because Great Britain had now entered upon the scene. Feeling in Spain upon the subject would be extremely strong, and if the French refused to modify their terms there would be considerable popular excitement.

I told his Excellency that it was, at any rate, satisfactory to find that the French Government was prepared to provide for extensive spheres of Spanish influence in those parts of Morocco which might be regarded as most important to Spain. As for the precise extent of those spheres, that seemed to me to be a matter for discussion between the two Governments, the course of which I should follow with friendly interest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 116.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 51. Most Confidential.)

Madrid, April 22, 1904.

My Lord,

I ASKED the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day whether the negotiations with the French Government, in consequence of the Anglo-French Arrangement, had begun early this week and were progressing.

His Excellency answered that the French Government appeared to be profiting by the Agreement made with your Lordship to take away advantages already possessed by Spain.

M. Leon y Castillo had reported that M. Delcassé claims the Muluya River to the eastward of the Spanish fort of Melilla, and thus proposes to extend Algeria at the cost of Spain. He said that he would write to the Duc de Mandas on this subject for the information of your Lordship.

It appeared to me, I said, that M. Leon y Castillo seemed excessively nervous.

I, personally, refused to believe that the French Government would do anything contrary to the lately signed Agreement.

At the beginning of negotiations, pretensions were often made on each side which have to be abandoned later, and patience was most necessary.

M. San Pedro agreed to this; but when I said the Muluya River was outside the portion of the coast from Melilla to the Sebu River which had to be neutralized, his Excellency answered that might be so, but the Muluya was between the Spanish forts of Melilla and the Zafarines; and on his map—a small one—it seemed to be so. I should add that in my map the Zafarines appear to be rather north-west than north-east of the River Muluya.

That the Spanish consider the mouth of this river, to which some value seems to be attached in France, as clearly within the zone of their influence appears certain, and considerable concessions may have to be made to them by the French to abandon what the former consider themselves entitled to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 117.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)

Madrid, April 22, 1904.

My Lord,

IN answer to a question of mine, the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs denied that any written or defined Agreement respecting the future fate of Morocco had ever been made between the French and Spanish Governments in the past.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 118.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 28.)

(No. 56.)

Madrid, April 25, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Madrid newspaper the "Diario Universal" published in its issue of yesterday the account of an interview given to one of its representatives by Señor Rodriguez San Pedro, on the subject of the Anglo-French Agreement in regard to Morocco.

In reply to the question whether the supposition was true that the Spanish Government were absolutely ignorant of the negotiations between France and England which led to the signature of the Agreement, his Excellency is reported to have said that there was no truth in such a supposition; that he did not know whether the Duke of Almodovar initiated any negotiations, as he asserts he did, and he was also ignorant whether Señor Abarzuza and the Count de San Bernardo, who succeeded the Duke of Almodovar at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, continued those negotiations or abandoned them, that would be for them to explain; but as far as he personally was concerned, he maintained that during the whole time he has occupied the portfolio of Foreign Affairs the negotiations with France and England have never ceased for one moment and that he was perfectly well acquainted with the matters which were being discussed between the two countries.

His Excellency said that the French and English Governments had not overlooked Spain in concluding these negotiations and that Spanish rights and interests had been duly taken into account. This had been expressly acknowledged by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs and besides, could be deduced from the text of the Treaty itself.

The Treaty was an Agreement concluded in the face of the whole of Europe in which England renounces her aspirations in Morocco and recognizes the legitimacy of the aspirations of Spain. France is intrusted with the duty of coming to an understanding with Spain with the proviso that she shall give account of any arrangement which may be made as a pledge and guarantee for the due fulfilment of that contract.

Spaniards ought, therefore, not to complain. The Treaty as it had been concluded recognizes the status of Spain to treat with France and to settle with her Morocco questions. This was the limit which Spain could rationally desire and constituted an express recognition of Spanish rights in that Empire such as had never been made on any previous occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

P.S.—I inclose herewith the text of the language of Señor San Pedro as printed in the Government newspaper "La Epoca."

E. H. E.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Extract from the "Epoca" of April 25, 1904.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH AGREEMENT: STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF STATE.

(Translation.)

THE "Diario Universal" published yesterday evening an interview between one of its staff and the Minister of State on the subject of the recent Anglo-French Agreement relative to Morocco. . . . . .

The conversation touched first on the assumption which has been made that the Spanish Government were absolutely ignorant of the negotiations for an Anglo-French Treaty, and that it had been settled and signed behind the back of our country.

This was roundly denied by the Minister.

"I do not know," Señor San Pedro said to us, "whether the Duke de Almodovar initiated, as he says, any negotiation. Nor do I know whether Señors Abarzuza and Londe de San Bernardo, who succeeded him in this Department, carried it on or abandoned it; I only speak for myself, and what I maintain is, that during the time that I have held the portfolio of State, the negotiations with France and England have never for a moment ceased, and that I have had full knowledge of all that those two nations were discussing. Those who are carrying on this campaign of protest might convince themselves of the truth of this statement, if it were possible, by reading the notes exchanged with both Governments in my time; a task which would certainly take them at least a fortnight.

"The French and English Governments," continued the Minister, "have carried on the negotiation without, in any respect, neglecting Spain, and have taken into account our rights and interests. This was expressly affirmed by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, and it is also clear from the text of the Treaty itself. It is an Agreement made in the face of Europe, by which England renounces her aspirations to Morocco and, recognizing the legitimacy of ours, charges France to come to an understanding with us, on the condition, of course, that she reports what is settled, as a pledge and guarantee of the fulfilment of that compact.

"Thus we have no ground for complaint. The Agreement, as it is drawn up, recognizing our status for dealing with, and settling in concert with France, the question affecting Morocco, is the limit of what we could reasonably desire, and constitutes an express recognition, such as never before was made, of our rights in that Empire.

"When, in what document or in what Protocol was such a Declaration formulated? Up till now much had been said of historical rights but they had never been anywhere recognized.

"In the new Treaty we are considered as a Power interested in Morocco, with a title analogous to that shown by France by right of her vicinity; she marches with the Empire on the Algerian side and we have possessions on the coast, of which express mention is made in the Agreement.

"I do not know what advantage we may derive from the Treaty just signed in the future; what I do affirm is that it corresponds absolutely to the requirements and necessities of the present.

"People talk and write and censure the Government; they discuss the meaning and import of the Treaty; but, amid all this farrago of newspaper articles and political opinions, is there any positive idea? Is any course laid down for the Government to follow in regard to the affairs of Morocco?"

There are in France two tendencies, clearly defined and well marked, in relation to this question; one, in favour of the division of Morocco, the other preferring constant

and progressive action in the direction of protection and influence. For which of those two solutions shall we decide? Which will serve as a basis for our negotiations with France?

Let it be clearly stated; but let it be remembered that either will entail upon us engagements and sacrifices for which we must be ready and prepared. For if we agree to divide Morocco between us, we shall need an army of occupation, at least as large as that employed by France for the territory falling to her share; and if we decide on the policy of protection and influence, we shall have, in order to act in conjunction with the neighbouring Republic, to incur expenses, by finding money for the Sultan, for the re-establishment of internal peace in the Empire, and by proceeding afterwards to build roads, improve harbours, and carry out other reforms to encourage and develop the economic and mercantile life of Morocco.

Is this what is wanted?

Let us hear the opinion of those who now think only of blaming the Government, although it has already formed its judgment on the subject, and knows exactly on what point to direct its efforts in future Treaties and Agreements with France.

The negotiations to be undertaken with the French Republic, as a consequence of the Treaty, are already begun, Señor Rodriguez San Pedro told us, and are a logical sequence of the communications previously exchanged.

The negotiations will now be delayed somewhat in consequence of the journey of the President of the Republic and Minister for Foreign Affairs to Italy, but, as soon as they return, will be actively continued.

The Minister did not think it prudent to tell us in what sense these negotiations will be conducted, but merely stated that it does not become the Spanish Government to make petitions of any kind, but that it is the French Government which, in virtue of the Treaty, has acquired the obligation to make the necessary proposals to Spain, to be discussed and considered by our Government with a view to obtaining the greatest advantage possible.

No. 119.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 29, 1904.*

I AM informed by M. Saint-René Taillandier that, on the whole, the news of the Agreement has been fairly favourably received at the capital. His news from Fez is later than mine, and it states that the Minister of War, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the majority of their subordinate officials, are disposed to co-operate cordially, but that some of those among the higher official classes are against any reform.

M. Saint-René Taillandier understands that the Sultan is vexed and perplexed, but his information as to His Majesty's views is merely indirect. Count Saint Aulaire, the French Secretary, who has gone to Fez, has received instructions to do his best to reassure the Sultan, and to explain that his position and dignity will not suffer.

The French Minister went on to say that he was anxious as to loan negotiations, and that he had fears that there might be difficulties in reconciling the demands of financiers with the views of the Moorish Government. On the 18th instant the Sultan told Kaid Maclean that he could not understand the Agreement, the details of which were then unknown at the capital. His Majesty said that if difficult conditions were attached to the loan he would not accept it.

I have had no news since then.

No. 120.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, April 29, 1904.*

IN connection with King Alfonso's visit to Ceuta, an unfortunate little incident has occured.

It had been arranged by Señor Cologan, the Spanish Minister, that the Sultan's Deputy at Tangier should proceed to Ceuta to welcome His Majesty, but the Deputy's

son was substituted by the Moorish Government, and Señor Cologan refused to agree to this. It now seems probable that no Moorish Mission will proceed, which in many ways is to be regretted.

I am informed by Señor Cologan that his Government have approved his action in the matter. Deputy's son was recently on a Mission to Madrid, and I do not understand the difficulty.

No. 121.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 220. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1904.

THE French Ambassador asked me to see him to-day on his return from Paris. He brought with him maps of Morocco showing the territories which the French Government proposed to recognize as falling within the Spanish sphere of influence. His Excellency was subsequently good enough to send me tracings of these maps. The limits of the two spheres, as described on them, do not differ materially from those indicated to me by the Spanish Ambassador on the 27th instant.

His Excellency, after explaining these proposals, referred to the negotiations which had taken place between the French and Spanish Governments in 1902. He told me that upon that occasion M. Delcassé had been careful to explain that the suggestions which he then made for the definition of the Spanish sphere of influence were put forward on his own responsibility as a basis for discussion, and that he could not make official proposals on behalf of the French Government until he had some knowledge of the terms upon which the Spanish Government were prepared to deal. M. Delcassé's suggestions had been "noted," and referred by M. Leon y Castillo to the Spanish Government, but without any result. A change of Government at Madrid had supervened, and the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Abarsuza, had intimated that Spain was not prepared to pursue the subject further without taking other Powers into their confidence. Not only Great Britain but Germany would, the Minister had said, have to be consulted. The matter had not been further pursued by the Spanish Government at the time, and, more recently, no attempt had been made to reopen the discussion, although it was well known that negotiations were proceeding between France and Great Britain.

I told his Excellency that I had listened with the greatest interest to his statement, and I repeated to him what had been said to me on the 27th by the Spanish Ambassador as to the inferiority of the terms now offered by M. Delcassé, as compared with those alleged to have been offered in 1902. M. Cambon assured me positively that there had never been any idea of bringing Fez within the Spanish sphere. It was true that the boundary of the northern sphere had been traced in 1902 further to the south than it was now intended to trace it, but there was at that time no question of a second sphere in the neighbourhood of Cape Juby. The offer of the southern sphere, to which the Spanish Government, as I was aware, attached great importance, seemed to M. Delcassé an ample compensation for the contraction of the northern sphere.

I told M. Cambon that I had found the Duc de Mandas greatly concerned at the omission from the northern sphere of the territory between Melilla and the Muluya River, and I called his Excellency's attention to the fact that the line as shown on the map which he had brought with him would leave the shore of the Mediterranean at a point so close to Melilla that the French sphere would extend up to the very walls of that place. I also pointed out that the Spaniards, naturally, resented an arrangement which would bring the coast in the immediate neighbourhood of the Zafarin islands within the French sphere. I could not help hoping that M. Delcassé would find it possible to make a concession at this point. I was convinced that such a concession would have an excellent effect. His Excellency took my suggestion in very good part, and promised to bear it in mind.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 122.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 221.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 29, 1904.

AT the close of my conversation with the French Ambassador, reported in my No. 220 of to-day, I handed to his Excellency a Memorandum, of which I inclose a copy, upon the subject of the Agreement made in 1895, between this country and the Sultan of Morocco, in regard to the territory adjoining Cape Juby.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Memorandum.

IN the course of the discussions between Lord Lansdowne and the French Ambassador, respecting the Declaration with regard to Morocco, signed on the 8th April, the French Ambassador drew attention to the Agreement between the British and Moorish Government of the 13th March, 1895, in which His Majesty's Government have recognized the territory in the neighbourhood of Cape Juby as belonging to Morocco, on condition that no part of it shall be alienated without their concurrence.

Lord Lansdowne assured his Excellency that His Majesty's Government have no intention of claiming for Great Britain, in consideration of that Agreement, any special position or influence in the territory in question, and that they will not oppose any arrangements in regard to it, which may be found desirable in furtherance of the objects described in the Declaration.

He added that His Majesty's Government made this Declaration with the less hesitation because they understood that the French Government are negotiating with the Spanish Government on the basis that this territory shall fall within the sphere of influence of Spain, should the Sultan ever cease to exercise authority over it.

To such an arrangement His Majesty's Government would give their cordial approval.

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received April* 30.)

(No. 59.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 20, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit extracts from a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting on the feeling at that port in regard to the recently concluded Agreement between Great Britain and France concerning Morocco. From one or two other coast towns I am also informed that the native population is considerably perturbed by what are doubtless exaggerated and inaccurate reports as to the scope and nature of the Agreement. This attitude was to be expected, and it is unfortunate that there is no press or other trustworthy channel of intercommunication to enable the provisions and character of the Arrangement to be explained to the natives.

It is to be hoped that when the native finds that his daily life and routine are not to be disturbed, he will be able to appreciate the advantages which a more orderly administration will insure to him. At the same time the re-establishment of Government authority and the collection of taxes will probably be a matter of some difficulty in many of the country districts.

I regret to observe, from Mr. Maclean's despatch, that the British colony at his port are so much dissatisfied with the conclusion of the Agreement. Their commercial interests are fully and amply secured for a period of at least thirty years, and they are at liberty to obtain a full share of the increased trade, which it is but natural to expect.

will shortly take place. I trust that a careful study of the terms of the commercial clauses of the Agreement, and also some experience of their working, will prove to our merchants that their interests are in nowise endangered, and that, on the contrary, there is every prospect that greater opportunities will before long be open to them for increasing and extending their trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 52.)
(Extract.) *Dar-al-Baida, April* 18, 1904.

THE new Amin of the custom-house, who has been in France, England, Algeria and Egypt, asked me on Saturday to allow him to read what the French and English newspapers had to say about the Arrangement concluded between England and France. After reading them he requested me to explain the details. He said, spontaneously, "This thing cannot be! There are bound to be risings and great troubles, they will all be for no good; but the ignorant people will not understand this, and will think it is their duty to die." He continued to say that probably there would not be much trouble with the people near the coast, as they were accustomed to Europeans, but in the oases and in the mountains all the people would rise.

I report this conversation to you for what it is worth, as a spontaneous expression of opinion from an unusually intelligent native, who speaks three European languages. I did my best to explain to him that really nothing was changed, both the Sultan and Makhzen remained; it only meant that the Government would be assisted by the advice of experienced French officials.

The general feeling among natives in the town is very bitter. They blame the Sultan, but receive no sympathy from British merchants, although the latter themselves express their resentment at the conclusion of the Arrangement with very little consideration for my position as a Government official.

It is too soon to learn how the news will be received in the country provinces. It takes a long time for native opinion to crystallize, and I think for the next few months all the people will be too busy over the exceptionally abundant crops to think much of politics, but I have not a doubt that, however cautiously the French work, directly it is recognized that the acts of the Government are inspired by European advisers there will be anti-Christian disturbances, and I think it behoves all Europeans residing or travelling in the interior to be henceforth particularly prudent.

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 60. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, April* 22, 1904.

BOTH the French and the Spanish Ministers have recently spoken to me on the subject of Spanish interests in Morocco, and although my colleagues do not presume to imagine that their opinions would be important factors in the discussions which may be proceeding between Madrid and Paris, still as they have, presumably, submitted them to their respective Governments, they may be of some interest to your Lordship.

I was struck by the fact that, though both my colleagues approached the question from different standpoints, their conclusions were very similar. M. Saint-René Taillandier, my French colleague, stated that, in his view, territorial compensation in any form to Spain in this quarter of Morocco would be imprudent in the interests of peace.

It would be difficult to draw a line of demarcation, and it was beyond doubt that within the Spanish sphere there would be continual turmoils between Spaniards and Moors, eventually necessitating intervention. It was difficult to devise, the French Minister added, some solution which would satisfy public opinion in Spain, and which at

the same time would be practicable in execution. He said that perhaps some share in future "travaux publics" would be possible, but this would probably be considered most inadequate in Spain.

M. de Colozan, the Spanish Minister, said that he was unable to comprehend how it could be imagined in his country that even so modest a project as an extension of the rayons round Ceuta and Melilla would be of any real advantage to Spain. He naturally sympathized with the aspirations and desires of his countrymen, but he regarded them as visions pleasing to dwell upon but impracticable in realization. Spain was not in a position to undertake the control of any portion of the Moorish littoral—the task was beyond her strength. He would far prefer to see some arrangements concluded which would enable Ceuta and Melilla to become flourishing ports of entry for interior trade, and perhaps, as a concession to public opinion, some frontier rectifications might be accorded on the west coast where French and Spanish territories adjoin. If under the recent arrangement order was established in Morocco, and life and property became secure, he looked to this country becoming an attractive field for Spanish colonists, and he considered that, as in Algeria, numbers of his compatriots would flock over here as tillers of the soil and as small traders.

Existing Treaties and Conventions fortunately were upheld in Morocco, and therefore Spaniards could become small landowners without having to take out naturalization papers as French citizens as was required in Algeria.

It was in this direction that he hoped that the Anglo-French Agreement would eventually be of advantage to his countrymen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 125.

Mr. Spring-Rice to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April* 27, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translation by Lord Cranley of an extract from the daily summary in the "St. Petersburger Zeitung" dealing with foreign policy on the subject of the modification in the position of Morocco towards the European Powers owing to the conclusion of the Anglo-French Agreement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

Inclosure in No. 125.

Extract from the "St. Petersburger Zeitung" of April 9 (22), 1904.

(Translation.)

A FEW days ago the Committee of Management of the Pan-German Association dispatched a Memorial to the Imperial Chancellor regarding the acquisition by Germany of the Atlantic coast-line of Morocco and its hinterland. According to the Memorial, Western Morocco offers the best possibility to Germany to obtain territory which is more suitable for her expansion than any of her existing over-sea possessions in a peaceful way and without embarking on a war of conquest against a European Power.

This somewhat naïve declaration gains in interest and importance when compared with the statement by Mr. Gibson Bowles, who says that he has been informed on good authority that an Agreement exists, which was known to the British Government before they signed the Anglo-French Agreement, between France, Germany, and Spain for the partition of Morocco.

This is, of course, unauthenticated, but it is true that Count Bülow stated in his speech to the Reichstag on the Anglo-French Agreement that Germany had no grounds for rejoicing, but that she knew her existing commercial interests to be guaranteed. Existing German rights in Morocco cannot be extinguished by an Agreement between England and France, but such rights can only be enforced—as the "Berliner Tageblatt" remarks with great truth—so long as the country remains independent or so long as the fiction of its independence is maintained.

Germany, on the 1st June, 1890, concluded a Commercial Treaty with Morocco, by which the latter undertook that import duties on German goods should not exceed 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, and this Treaty contains no clause fixing its termination. Clearly, then, Germany at the present time is entitled to most-favoured-nation treatment in Morocco, and will be enabled to enjoy these advantages so long as France maintains the fiction of the independence of Morocco, but England will enjoy equal commercial privileges at any rate till 1934 even if France were to incorporate Morocco into her Empire by complete annexation.

German exports to Morocco are not so large as her exports to Egypt, but in the last year they have increased considerably, *i.e.*, from 1·6 million marks in 1902 to 4 million marks in 1903, and perhaps the German Government considers that it is unnecessary to follow up the fantastic demands of the Pan-German Association for the sake of 4 millions. Such a course, too, would not be altogether without danger.

No. 126.

Mr. Herbert to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 2.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Darmstadt, April* 29, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, the précis of an article on the Morocco Agreement in its relation to German interests, which appeared in the non-official part of the "Darmstädter Zeitung" for Wednesday, the 20th April, and also the précis of an article on France and Morocco, published in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" of Tuesday, the 26th April.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARTHUR HERBERT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 126.

Précis of an Article in the "Darmstädter Zeitung" of Wednesday, April 20, 1904.

THE MOROCCO AGREEMENT AND GERMANY.—After stating that an understanding between England and France is self-evidently undesirable for Germany, the paper proceeds to warn against an over-valuation of the present Agreement. The Protectorate over Morocco, it says, weakens rather than strengthens the French army.

In discussing the question of a German coaling station in the French Protectorate of Morocco, the article declares that such a station would only be of value in the case of war, and that a war with Germany as a belligerent and France as a neutral Power is highly improbable. In the more probable event of France, either alone or allied, attacking Germany, the coaling station, which would probably be garrisoned only by a battalion, would be immediately taken. Should, however, as is more unlikely, France be allied with Germany against a third Power—possibly England—German ships would be able to coal at the French ports.

The article concludes with the statement that Germany has no political interests, and that its commercial interests in Morocco are not so preponderating as to justify a demand for a concession of territory.

Inclosure 2 in No. 126.

Précis of an Article on France and Morocco in the "Frankfurter Zeitung" of Tuesday, April 26, 1904.

THE article commences by saying that, while England up to the present possessed a preponderating influence in the ports and coast-lands of the Sultanate, yet it would never have been able to extend this influence into the hinterland. France, on the other hand, thanks to its position and previous experience in Algiers, will not find this so difficult. A résumé of the French policy in Algiers and on the frontier of Morocco is

adduced in support of the above statement. The French treatment of the Jews is next touched upon, the article stating that the Jews have been found to form a most useful connection between the French and the Arabs. The "Alliance Israélite" possesses some fifteen schools, containing 2,589 pupils, in Morocco itself.

The article concludes with the supposition that the customs frontier between Algeria and Morocco will shortly be abolished, and the thirty years' free trade guaranteed consequently robbed of the greater part of its value.

No. 127.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 4.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 4, 1904.

WITH reference to Article 5 of the Declaration, Sid Abdelkrim ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, had inquired of me through Sir H. Maclean whether, should the Sultan wish it, he could employ British employés at the Customs or elsewhere. I am also requested by Sir H. Maclean to send a message through him to the Sultan, assuring His Majesty that his interests are a matter of deep concern both to the King and to His Majesty's Government.

I gather from certain remarks which M. Saint René Taillandier made to me, that he is uneasy lest affairs should be hampered by our people at the Court. I informed him that he might rest assured that this would not occur. From letters which I have received from Fez it would appear that neither the Sultan nor his British employés have clearly understood the nature of the declaration. I propose to reply to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that those at present in the employ of the Sultan are solely referred to in Article 5. I might also request Kaïd Maclean to inform the Sultan from me, that a continuance of the present deplorable situation would have been disastrous both to His Majesty and to Morocco; that His Majesty's Government, in admitting the right of France to assist and advise His Majesty, had at heart the true interests of Morocco, and that care had also been taken that His Majesty's position and authority should be thoroughly safeguarded.

An embarrassing position would arise both to M. Saint René Taillandier and myself, if, as is evident, the Sultan is anxious to continue to lean on and to seek advice from England.

No. 128.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 4, 1904.

I APPROVE reply to Sultan which you propose in your telegram No. 36 of to-day.

It was intended by Article 5 of the Declaration to guarantee against summary dismissal without compensation or pension meritorious British subjects already employed by the Moorish Government or the Sultan, as, for instance, Sir H. Maclean. The question of the nationality of persons to be employed hereafter is a matter for arrangement between the Sultan and the French, and above-mentioned Article had no reference thereto.

No. 129.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 5, 1904.

A LARGE loan on favourable terms is being tendered to the Moorish Government by a French group, of which Creuzot and Co. are the principal members, and an Agent is being sent to Fez.

I am informed by M. Saint René Taillandier that the above-mentioned project is not supported by the French Government, and that he endeavoured to discourage it.

The Creuzot group is in rivalry with the Banque de Paris, which is receiving the support of the French Government in its loan negotiations with the Moorish Government, as it considers that the latter bank will obtain, in the matter of financial control and future concessions, too commanding an influence over other French houses. Competition will probably be welcomed by the Moorish Government, in the hope of obtaining better conditions, and they are facilitating the journey of the Agent to the capital.

No. 130.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 6.)

(No. 62.)

Tangier, April 27, 1904.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED yesterday several reports from the coast towns and from the interior, in which there was practical unanimity in stating that very considerable excitement had arisen among the native population in regard to the news which had spread as to the conclusion between Great Britain and France of an agreement affecting Morocco.

The country people have received no intelligence as to the nature and scope of the arrangement, and have hastily assumed that Great Britain has stepped aside, and has left France at liberty to obtain full control over the administration of the country, and in their heated imaginations they are expecting the immediate advent of a number of French functionaries attended by armed forces to support their authority. In these circumstances it is scarcely a matter of surprise that great agitation is commencing among the tribes, and especially among those of the Berber race, and that many wild and minatory measures are being discussed.

This ebullition of feeling, prompted by a mistaken and ill-informed view of the actual facts, will, I trust, gradually calm down when the natives find that no immediate changes are effected. At the same time the present attitude of the public mind may be taken advantage of by those who are hostile to the Government, and they may seek to fan the popular resentment. They could, without much difficulty, persuade the tribes that their country had been bartered away by the Sultan and his Government, and an unpleasant situation might be created. It is unfortunate, as I formerly mentioned to your Lordship, that no medium or channel of communication exists through which accurate and trustworthy intelligence can be brought to the knowledge of the tribes.

It is, to my mind, of the utmost importance that the greatest tact and caution should be exercised in the introduction of any reforms, and that the intervention of foreign advice and assistance should be rendered as little evident as possible.

I am a little uneasy as to what may occur when steps are taken for the collection of taxes, but some time must elapse before any action is taken in that direction, as it will be necessary in the first place to organize an armed force to overawe the recalcitrants, and this is not a measure which can be rapidly effected.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 131.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 6.)

(No. 64. Confidential.)

Tangier, April 30, 1904.

My Lord,

THE French Minister informed me yesterday that he had received a lengthy report from the French Consul at Fez, which gave a more favourable account of the dispositions of official circles in the capital towards the Anglo-French Agreement than he had permitted himself to expect. Both the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for War showed themselves well disposed to accept French advice and assistance, and the former was prepared to use his influence in smoothing the way for the introduction of a few French functionaries in some branches of the Administration. Another satisfactory sign was that the majority of the subordinate officials were apparently pleased at the prospect of some regularity and order being introduced into the Administration, and with the expectation that salaries would be punctually paid. These individuals, M. Saint-René Taillandier remarked, had never benefited by the

abuses of the old system, and would therefore, he hoped, become useful auxiliaries in the future.

On the other hand, the French Minister added, was to be reckoned the opposition of Court officials and all those who adhered to, and had profited by, the traditional methods of Government. The Grand Vizier, the Minister of Finance and his brother were the most prominent among the upholders of ancient customs.

The most important was, naturally, the Sultan himself, and in regard to the views of His Majesty the French Minister had only indirect information, but he gathered from certain indications that the Sultan had not received the news of the conclusion of the Agreement with much pleasure. Indeed, he understood that His Majesty was both vexed and perplexed. My French colleague inquired whether I could give him any information in regard to the attitude of the Sultan towards the new order of things, as he had been told that Sir H. Maclean had recently had an audience of His Majesty.

I replied that my news from Fez was not of so recent a date as his, and that at the date of the audience of Sir H. Maclean the details of the Agreement were not known at the capital. I read to him the last letter which I had received from Sir H. Maclean, and which alluded to the audience in question. It appeared that the Moorish Government had been informed by the German Consul of the signature of the Agreement, and the Sultan had questioned Sir H. Maclean on the subject. The latter had replied that he had not had an opportunity of seeing the text of the Agreement, but that he understood that France was ready to give the Moorish Government assistance in re-establishing order in their finances, &c.

The Sultan had replied that he did not desire to accept a loan to which were attached difficult conditions, and that, so far as I was aware, was all that had passed at the audience on the subject of the Agreement.

My French colleague observed that he feared that the loan negotiations would prove delicate and difficult, and he was anxious in regard to them. The financial houses in Paris regarded the question from a purely financial point of view, and were disposed to impose exceedingly onerous conditions. The imposition of hard terms would be impolitic and hazardous at this moment, and any endeavour to exercise a direct control over the customs revenues, unless skilfully veiled, might create a dangerous situation in the present excited condition of the public mind. Moreover, the Sultan and his Government, although in serious straits for money, might hesitate at this moment to accept conditions which would bring into prominence the fact of foreign intervention and control. It was necessary to proceed with the greatest tact and circumspection, and he was anxious in the first place to strengthen and consolidate the central Administration, as unobtrusively as possible, before any measures were taken on the coast or in the interior indicative of the old order having given place to a new.

My French colleague then reverted to the attitude of the Sultan, on which he is evidently uneasy. He said he had impressed on Count Saint Aulaire to do his utmost to conciliate and reassure His Majesty, and to explain fully to him that there was no desire or intention to diminish in the slightest his dignity and position. He feared that pressure might be brought upon the Sultan to decline to accept French aid and advice, and though in some respects His Majesty was frivolous and light-hearted, he had a lofty conception of his rights and position, and could easily be persuaded to resent any interference in his Government, or any curtailment of his freedom of action. Were the Sultan to take this course a very difficult problem would be presented. Furthermore, His Majesty might be influenced by the agitation, caused by an imperfect knowledge of the facts, which was pervading at present the country, and which, especially among the Berber tribes, was finding expression in wild and loose talk, directed both against Europeans and the Sultan himself. This agitation would doubtless calm down, but it might have an effect upon the Sultan. M. Saint-René Taillandier concluded a long conversation, of which I have endeavoured to give the salient points to your Lordship, by observing that he trusted that every opportunity would be taken to reassure the public generally as to the nature and scope of the Agreement. The task which his Government had undertaken was a very onerous and responsible one, and it would be unfortunate were its difficulties increased by distorted and exaggerated reports.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 132.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 6.)

(No. 65.)

My Lord, *Tangier, April* 30, 1904.

THE Spanish Minister informed me yesterday that an unfortunate incident had occurred in connection with the visit of the King of Spain to Ceuta, and for which he blamed Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The facts of the case are as follows:—

Having ascertained from the Spanish Government that the King of Spain would be pleased to receive a Moorish Mission on the occasion of his visit to Ceuta, the Spanish Minister arranged with Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Deputy here, that his Excellency should go as Moorish Representative and should be conveyed to and from Ceuta in a man-of-war. M. de Cologan thereupon wrote to Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, officially conveying the expression of the pleasure with which the King of Spain would receive a Moorish Mission, and he intimated, at the same time, privately, that Hadj Mohammed Torres would be the most suitable person for such a Mission. These letters were handed to Ben Sliman by the French Consul at Fez, as the Spanish Legation has no agent there. Ben Sliman demurred at first to so old a man as Hadj Mohammed Torres, who is also in weak health, proceeding on the Mission, but on being informed that the latter was perfectly willing to undertake the short sea journey, he told the French Consul that he would take the orders of the Sultan on the subject.

M. de Cologan subsequently received an official reply from the Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that the son of Hadj Mohammed Torres had been selected for the Mission. M. de Cologan refused to accept the son, and has declined to facilitate the departure of any Mission unless Hadj Mohammed Torres is at the head of it. In this action he tells me he is supported by his Government, and as the King of Spain is expected to arrive at Ceuta on the 3rd May, it is probable that no Moorish Mission will proceed.

This is to be regretted, and as M. de Cologan only told me the above in confidence, many erroneous versions are current among the public, and the refusal of the Spanish Government to accept a Moorish Mission is variously interpreted. I do not quite understand the objection to the son of Hadj Mohammed Torres, as he was chief of a Moorish Mission which visited Madrid two or three years ago, nor do I see why blame is attached to Ben Sliman, as the choice of an Envoy is clearly a matter to be settled by the Sultan, and not locally at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 133.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 6.)

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May* 6, 1904.

MOROCCO. I learn from the Spanish Minister of State that the pretension of France for the eventual extension of her sphere of influence to a point on the coast opposite the Zafarine Islands, has been withdrawn by M. Delcassé.

Señor San Pedro attributes this change to your influence, and expressed his gratitude to your Lordship.

No. 134.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 38.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 10, 1904.

WITH reference to the Agreement.

The Sultan has sent me a further message, which he asks me to keep strictly confidential.

It is as follows:—

His Majesty asks me whether he can receive assurance or guarantee from Great Britain and France that French advice and assistance will be withdrawn when the Moorish Government are able to stand alone, and reforms, &c., have been introduced. The Sultan declares that, without some such assurance, he will not accept a loan or any sort of assistance from France, as he feels sure that the absorption of Morocco is her ultimate object, for which purpose, he says, he will not be made an instrument. He asks me to send a reply to above question, and repeats his conviction that England will not desert him.

In reply to His Majesty, I propose to state in friendly terms that it would be unwise for him to seek to obtain from us an assurance of above-mentioned nature, as we have engaged not to obstruct the French in their task of assisting His Majesty, and that, as their offers will eventually be for the good of Morocco and for His Majesty's personal benefit, I recommend him to meet them in a conciliatory spirit.

No. 135.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *May* 10, 1904.

ANGLO-FRENCH Agreement.

I approve the reply you propose in your telegram No. 38 of to-day's date to make to the Sultan's message.

No. 136.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 272.)

My Lord, *Paris, May* 11, 1904.

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the negotiations between France and Spain in view of the partition of their respective spheres of influence in Morocco, I have the honour to transmit an extract from the "Figaro," stating that an Agreement has now been reached which is likely to form the basis of a new Convention.

The difficulty lay chiefly in the necessity of finding a formula to reconcile the results attained in the early period of the negotiation with the terms finally arranged between France and England.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Extract from the "Figaro" of May 11, 1904.

A TRAVERS PARIS.—Nous croyons savoir qu'à la suite des conversations que M. Delcassé, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, a eues, tous ces temps derniers, avec son Excellence M. Leon y Castillo, Marquis del Muni, Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Catholique à Paris, un Accord, touchant la question du Maroc, serait sur le point d'intervenir entre la France et l'Espagne.

Depuis déjà quelque temps, on le sait, les Cabinets de Paris et de Madrid se préoccupaient, en prévision des changements susceptibles d'être apportés dans l'organisation politique et sociale de l'Empire Chérifien, de déterminer l'attitude que les deux pays pourraient être amenés à observer vis-à-vis du Sultan comme aussi vis-à-vis l'un de l'autre. La grosse difficulté consistait surtout à concilier certaines dispositions, arrêtées assez facilement, en principe, au cours des premières négociations, avec la situation nouvelle créée par le récent Arrangement Franco-Anglais.

En d'autres termes, il s'agissait, tout en ménageant les intérêts essentiels et les aspirations légitimes de l'Espagne, de permettre à la France de veiller seule, à l'exclusion de toute autre Puissance, à la tranquillité du Maroc et de lui prêter son assistance, suivant les termes mêmes de la Déclaration du 8 Avril.

C'est cette formule, difficile sans doute, mais nécessaire, que M. Delcassé et le Marquis del Muni auraient réussi à dégager après de longs pourparlers, et qui, dans un délai que la sincérité des explications échangées semble désormais devoir rendre assez court, deviendrait la base d'un nouvel instrument diplomatique.

No. 137.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 248. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1904.

THE French Ambassador told me to-day, with reference to the conversation recorded in my despatch No. 220 of the 29th ultimo, that he had informed M. Delcassé that in the opinion of His Majesty's Government the Spanish Government were justified in claiming to have the region between Melilla and the Muluya River included in the Spanish sphere of influence.

M. Delcassé was disposed to admit that there was something to be said for this view of the case, and he had accordingly sent for the Ambassador and told him that he was prepared to draw the frontier of the northern sphere of Spanish influence so that it should start near the mouth of the Muluya, and follow that river for some distance before turning to the west. M. Delcassé had also offered to extend the boundary of the southern sphere of Spanish influence further to the north, so that the line should start, not at Ras Agula as had been at first proposed, but at the mouth of the River Mesa. M. Delcassé had, however, explained to the Spanish Ambassador that these concessions were offered upon condition that the remainder of the French terms were accepted. He was not prepared to prolong the discussion of these details, and his offer was "à prendre ou à laisser." The Ambassador was apparently inclined to raise difficulties, but his Excellency thought that the matter would probably be arranged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 138.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 258.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1904.

THE French Ambassador informed me during the course of our conversation to-day that he had been mistaken when, on the 29th April, he told me that during the 1902 negotiations between France and Spain as to their interests in Morocco there had been no question of giving Spain a second sphere in the neighbourhood of Cape Juby. M. Delcassé had told him that a second sphere had in fact been then offered to Spain in that neighbourhood. His Excellency had, however, been unaware of the fact when he spoke to me on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 139.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 66. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, May* 4, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a letter which Sir H. Maclean has received from a Colonel Gouraud, with its inclosure, relative to a projected loan to the Moorish Government and the formation of a "Société Saharienne Internationale." The Moorish Minister for Finance received the communication from Colonel Gouraud, of which a copy is inclosed in the latter's letter to Sir H. Maclean, but made no reply to it. Sir H. Maclean has requested his solicitors to inform Colonel Gouraud that he is unable to assist him in any way, and that he has no agent in England.

Colonel Gouraud is evidently the gentleman who had an interview with Sir E. Barrington in December last on behalf of M. Lebaudy. The "M. Mahomed" referred to in Colonel Gouraud's letter to the Minister of Finance is a Syrian called Mohammed-el-Attar Shami, who was for some time in the service of the late Grand Vizier, and was eventually dismissed by the Moorish Government. Since his departure from Morocco he has chiefly employed his time in writing abusive and scurrilous letters to the Sultan and his Ministers; and he has also endeavoured to extort money on various pretexts from Sir H. Maclean. He was lately at Gibraltar, but has not ventured to come to Morocco, as the authorities intend to arrest him should he present himself here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Colonel Gouraud to Kaid Maclean.

Monsieur, *Nice, le* 16 *Avril*, 1904.

JE me permets de vous adresser une copie de ma lettre au Ministère Marocain, pour laquelle je n'ai pas encore reçu réponse. Si le sujet vous intéresse, je serais très heureux d'avoir votre coopération. Depuis la date de la dite lettre, l'annonce de l'entente Franco-Anglaise est tout ce qu'il y a de plus favorable pour mon projet, et il n'y a personne capable et plus à même que vous comme collègue, si cela vous était agréable.

Je pars d'ici à Paris en automobile le 20 Avril, et me trouverais à Paris tout la première semaine de Mai, où, si le hasard me permet de vous rencontrer, j'en serai très heureux. De Paris j'irai directement à Londres, voir Lord Lansdowne, et de là je rentrerai à ma résidence de Brighton. Peut-être, si non à Paris, je vous verrai à Londres ou à Brighton.

(Signé) GOURAUD.

P.S.—I write in French, having with me only a secretary who does not write English. There is a big affair in what is proposed, and I can command the best support, both in Paris and in London.

G.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Colonel Gouraud to the Minister of Finance, Morocco.

M. le Ministre, *Le Mars*, 1904.

M. ABDULLAH SAROWORTHY, Secrétaire de la Société Pan-Islam à Londres, m'a été présenté au Savoy Hotel, où je demeurai avec M. Jacques Lebaudy, dit Empereur du Sahara Jacques I^er^, en ma qualité de Gouverneur-Général. J'ai présenté M. Abdullah à M. Lebaudy, et par la suite plusieurs entrevues ont eu lieu, dans lesquelles était aussi M. Mahomed, Marocain, et Aide-de-Camp de Sa Majesté le Sultan du Maroc, et qui était précédemment associé avec le Général Kaïd Maclean comme Commissaire-Délégué Spécial venant de la part de Sa Majesté, pour conclure un emprunt de 400,000*l.*, opération qui n'a pas réussi; après cet échec M. Kaïd Maclean est retourné à Fez, laissant Mahomed à Londres pour continuer de nouvelles démarches.

Alors, avec l'autorisation de M. Lebaudy et en sa qualité d'Empereur, j'ai fait offrir à Sa Majesté le Sultan de lui avancer la dite somme, de plus 1,600,000*l.*, sous les conditions que je recevrais une garantie de l'Administration des Douanes jusqu'à extinction de l'emprunt. M. Mahomed a ensuite été reçu par M. Lebaudy en dehors de ma présence, et d'après une information que j'ai reçue d'un témoin direct, j'ai appris que M. Mahomed avait reçu une somme de 1,000*l.* pour ses frais de voyage, et qu'il devait se rendre à Fez ensuite auprès du Prophète voilé et des Cheiks au Sahara, pour amener une vingtaine de ces derniers à Mogador, où M. Lebaudy avait l'intention de les prendre, afin de les amener à Londres comme étant ses hôtes.

Plusieurs télégrammes ont été envoyés de Londres par Mahomed au Ministre des Finances du Maroc. En tous cas, j'ai vu les télégrammes écrits informant le Ministre des négociations en vue de l'emprunt, et il m'a informé qu'il avait reçu une réponse

favorable sur ce projet financier et qu'il rencontrerait à Gibraltar le fils du Ministre des Finances.

Le chiffre de 1,600,000*l.* que j'ai offert en plus portait les conditions que cette partie de l'emprunt serait destinée à la réorganisation et l'armément de l'armée Marocaine. Ce témoin Anglais et avocat qui prétendait être Mahometan avait arrêté tous ces détails avec M. Mahomed, et c'est M. Lemasurier qui m'a dit le lendemain même que la somme avait été versée et que M. Mahomed partirait le même jour pour Fez.

Quelque temps après ce versement j'ai été informé par une autorité indiscutable que M. Mahomed n'était pas parti, qu'il ne partirait pas. L'avocat, sujet Anglais en question, a été destitué par le Gouvernement de la haute position qu'il a occupé pendant vingt-cinq ans dans le service colonial, et par le même fait remercié par M. Lebaudy; malgré cela il a obtenu un Jugement contre ce dernier pour se couvrir de la somme représentant ses appointements.

Le même cas vient de se présenter pour plusieurs des officiers de M. Lebaudy. Il y a, du reste, en ce moment d'autres procès en litige, y compris le mien, qui sera d'un grand poids dans la balance. Il n'est pas nécessaire d'ajouter que j'ai rompu mes relations avec M. Lebaudy.

C'est au sujet de cet offre d'emprunt que j'ai commencé à douter de la sincérité et de l'honnêteté de M. Lebaudy sous tous les rapports.

Je suis toujours convaincu qu'il y a une affaire de haute importance à traiter au Sahara avec l'appui du Gouvernement Marocain et l'approbation du Roi d'Angleterre; j'ai consulté quelques amis financiers au sujet de la question de l'emprunt, et nous en avons conclu que la chose était absolument pratique, d'autant plus que l'affaire de l'Empire du Sahara, en ce qui concerne particulièrement M. Lebaudy, doit être considérée comme terminée. Aussi, avec la coopération de tout l'entourage de premier ordre que j'avais formé pour M. Lebaudy, j'ai consenti à donner mon appui pour le développement du commerce et de l'industrie entre le Sahara et l'Angleterre avec une organisation sous le titre de "Société Saharienne Internationale," possédant tout le capital nécessaire pour son développement y compris les capitaux nécessaires à l'emprunt Marocain avec l'intention d'être le Gouverneur-Général de cette importante Société.

Avec les informations ci-dessus soumises à votre haute appréciation, je me permets de venir vous demander si le Gouvernement Marocain accepterait en principe ce projet dans son ensemble.

Dans le cas d'acceptation je serais toujours à votre disposition pour nous entendre et discuter de vive voix l'affaire en détail à l'endroit et la date qui seront définis, dès que vous aurez bien voulu me faire parvenir votre réponse, afin d'instituer une Convention Commerciale de concert avec le Maroc, et aussi pour discuter la question de l'emprunt dans le cas où vous seriez toujours disposé à la conclure.

Je vois avec un grand intérêt l'article paru dans les journaux concernant une entente sérieuse entre l'Angleterre et la France au sujet du Maroc, et j'espère que cette Convention amènera de très bons résultats pour votre nation.

Dans une entrevue que j'ai eue au Quai d'Orsay ces jours derniers j'ai expliqué les points principaux contenus dans cette lettre, et le Secrétaire du Cabinet de M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères les a accepté officieusement avec grand intérêt. Il a manifesté le désir de voir entrer la France dans ces combinaisons; il n'a pas été surpris de la chute de Jacques I^er^ et de son Empire fictif.

Le Colonel Gouraud peut vous fournir des références ou renseignements diplomatiques, militaires, et financiers sur Londres, Paris, et Washington.

Recevez, M. le Ministre, &c.,

P.S.—L'affaire commerciale proposée d'autre part doit consister en un Traité consenti entre le Maroc et la Société sus-mentionnée pour l'exploitation de la contrée du Sahara limitrophe du Maroc, sous la protection du Gouvernement Marocain.

No. 140.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 67.)

Tangier, May 5, 1904.

My Lord,

A FEW months ago a Syndicate was formed here, under the title of "Compagnie Marocaine," with the view of developing in various directions French enterprise. The active local members of this Syndicate are the agents of MM. Creuzot et Cie., and they have secured, I am told, considerable financial support in France. These local representatives are old residents in Morocco, and are energetic, capable, and hard-working men. Of late they have done very considerable business with the Moorish Government, and of all French houses are certainly the most prominent and the most successful.

They have viewed with some jealousy and envy the privileged position which the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas holds in all financial matters with the French authorities, and since the signature of the Anglo-French Declaration and the possible development of French interests, of which they consider themselves the pioneers, they have been much disappointed by the above Bank being entrusted with the negotiations for a loan which they anticipate will lead to financial control and a commanding influence in the distribution of all future Concessions. They have consequently induced MM. Creuzot et Cie., Jaluzot et Cie., and others to join in tendering for a loan of from 2,000,000*l.* to 4,000,000*l.* on what they hope will prove more attractive conditions than those offered by the other bank acting under the ægis of the French Legation. An agent of this new group is proceeding at once to Fez, and I am informed that the Moorish authorities here have received orders from the capital to facilitate and expedite his journey by all means in their power.

The French Minister tells me that he had received the agents of this group, and had told them plainly that he did not consider their project had the smallest prospect of succeeding, as he would not give it any support, but would further the loan offered by the Banque de Paris. He pointed out to them that their fears that this latter bank would obtain any influence in the distribution of future Concessions were purely imaginary, as all Concessions for public works were, by the recent declaration, to be an affair of the State, and there would be no monopoly or special privileges allowed. He had not apparently succeeded in convincing these gentlemen, as I am told their agent is leaving in a day or two for Fez. M. Zangarussiano, the agent of the Banque de Paris, is already at the capital, and may have concluded his negotiations before the arrival of his competitor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 141.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 64.)

Madrid, May 8, 1904.

My Lord,

SEÑOR MAURA, in receiving yesterday members of the local press, was asked by one of them if he had read the opinion of General Bernal, the Military Governor of Ceuta, as published in a periodical, describing the Anglo-French Arrangement respecting Morocco as an insult to Spain.

The President of the Council answered that he had not read the statement referred to, and did not know—if it had been made at all—what reasons the Governor had for expressing himself thus.

No doubt allusion to this would be made in the Chamber, and then he would be in a position to answer more precisely.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 68.)

Tangier, May 5, 1904.

My Lord,

THE Spanish Minister who went to Ceuta on the 3rd instant to pay his respects to the King of Spain tells me that His Majesty inquired of him whether any Moorish Embassy had arrived to offer a welcome on behalf of the Sultan, and that he had replied that none was present, as he had considered that the Envoy who had been designated was not of sufficient standing for such an honourable mission.

His Majesty did not make any further allusion to the subject.

The incident has made a painful impression, and will, I am sure, cause the Sultan much disappointment. I do not think that any slight was in any way intended on the part of the Moorish Government, and the gentleman they had selected was the same who had been special Envoy at Madrid on the occasion of the King's coronation. They, with some reason, presumably considered that he would be the most suitable to proceed to Ceuta, as I believe he behaved with great propriety while in Spain, and gave no cause for offence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 143.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 69. Confidential.)

Tangier, May 5, 1904.

My Lord,

SIR H. MACLEAN informs me that the Sultan spoke to him again on the subject of the Anglo-French declaration regarding Morocco, and inquired of him whether I had made any communication on the subject. Sir H. Maclean replied in the negative, and seeing that His Majesty was somewhat surprised, he has suggested to me that it would be opportune if I could authorize him to give some friendly message to the Sultan.

The Sultan, it would appear from the letters I receive, has not yet thoroughly grasped the nature of the declaration, and apparently is of opinion that little change is to be effected in the present situation, beyond, perhaps, a demand for some control over the customs revenues in order to insure the punctual payment of the dividends of a new loan.

Such control His Majesty seems unwilling at present to grant to any individual bank or group of financiers, though he would be ready to secure the services of British and French officials to assist in placing the administration of the customs on a proper basis.

The Sultan, so far as I could gather, is quite unaware that the advice and assistance which are to be offered to him have a wider scope, and will eventually affect most, if not all, the Departments of his Government. His Ministers do not appear to have enlightened him on these points, nor in his conversations with Sir H. Maclean has he seemingly been able to understand that in the future French aid and advice will be effective and permanent.

His Majesty is, I understand, pained that any Agreement in regard to Morocco should have been signed without his knowledge, and, above all, that Great Britain, whom he still regards as his friend, should have been one of the two parties to that Agreement.

I have asked Sir H. Maclean to tell the Sultan from me that, in admitting the right of France to assist and advise him for the purpose of all administrative, economic, financial and military reforms, care was taken that His Majesty's position and authority should be thoroughly safeguarded. It was clear that a continuance of the present deplorable situation would very likely have proved disastrous to His Majesty and to the future or his country, and in view of this probable eventuality, and having the true interests of His Majesty at heart, His Majesty's Government took the best possible, and, indeed, the only course. The Sultan would, I doubted not, understand that if anarchy and chaos had been suffered to continue, the danger to which I had alluded

would always have been impending, and some foreign assistance was, in the circumstances, evidently necessary.

The position of France as the neighbour of Morocco clearly entitled her to afford the necessary advice and assistance; and, in giving their consent to this course, His Majesty's Government had obtained assurances that no change would be made in the political status of Morocco, and thereby His Majesty's position had been preserved.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 144.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 62. Confidential.)

Madrid, May 6, 1904.

My Lord,

SEÑOR RODRIGUEZ SAN PEDRO, when I saw him to-day, told me that M. Delcassé had now recognized the justice of the Spanish claim that in the eventual spheres of influence in Morocco the French should not advance theirs to the mainland immediately opposite to the Zaffarine Islands beyond the Muluya River.

He attributed this change to the friendly aid of your Lordship, and expressed gratitude.

I did not say more than what I had already told him that I saw no reason whatever for uneasiness on the Spanish side in these negotiations or for suspicion of want of faith on the side of France.

His Excellency agreed, but he said there was a display of a bargaining spirit. This, I answered, one has to be prepared for in most negotiations.

I may mention incidentally to your Lordship that a few days ago, the French Ambassador said to me that Señor San Pedro and the Spanish Government appeared to be rather difficult or prone to alarm (I forget the exact word) in the negotiations going on in Paris respecting Morocco, with which negotiations he (M. Cambon) had nothing to do.

I told him that, though I do not interfere in what is not my business, and discuss the matter with the Spaniards or others, my personal opinion is that the Spanish Government would have a grievance if the French sphere of influence were extended beyond the Muluya to the immediate rear of the Zaffarines, thus cutting them off from communication with the mainland.

M. Jules Cambon said this was his opinion too, and that he was about to telegraph to Paris in that sense. Unfortunately, M. Étienne, the head of the Colonial party, was from Oran, and felt strongly on the question.

I confided to his Excellency that as regards Spanish feeling on the subject of the Morocco arrangement (though from my slight experience here my opinion may be fallacious), I have never considered—unless provoked by some glaring want of tact—that it is likely to be seriously excited by the turn events have taken, or that opposition to the Anglo-French arrangement will injure the Government; moreover, I consider Señor San Pedro to be a sensible unexcitable man, and that the person on the Spanish side who has shown most agitation has been the Ambassador in Paris.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 145.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 280. Secret.)

Paris, May 13, 1904.

My Lord,

M. LEON Y CASTILLO, Marques del Muni, has come very late this afternoon, leaving me insufficient time I fear to report as fully as I could wish by the messenger the conversation which I have had with him.

He is still, it seems, at a deadlock in the negotiations with M. Delcassé. At their last meeting, he says, the Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he regretted he could make no concession beyond what had already been agreed to; which the Spanish Ambassador declared to be totally insufficient.

M. Delcassé, however, repeated that it was "to take or to leave"; to which the Ambassador replied: "Then you in effect notify me the end of the negotiations; for you are not negotiating, you are simply insisting on having everything you want. Am I to accept what you say in that light?"

The Ambassador states that M. Delcassé answered that if M. Leon y Castillo had any other arguments to use he was ready to hear them.

Then it would seem that the discussion recommenced on the same ground as before, and ended in the same manner.

M. Leon y Castillo had come therefore to me to explain how things stand, and to say that without your Lordship's help the negotiations must be dropped, in which case France would take all and give Spain nothing. He begged me to say that Spain counted on British aid.

I said that I would report his request to your Lordship, but that I must point out that this method of proceeding was absolutely irregular. That the Cabinet at Madrid should address itself to your Lordship direct either through the Duc de Mandas or Sir Edwin Egerton.

He replied that he had yesterday received a telegram from the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs informing him that the Ambassador in London was being instructed to appeal to your Lordship.

I said that it struck me that the Spanish Government had been very remiss in keeping all the 1902 negotiation from the knowledge of His Majesty's Government. They had endeavoured to make their own arrangements with France behind our backs ("à notre insu") and now informed us that they had arrived at a most satisfactory arrangement of which their loyalty to us had prevented their profiting, because they would not sign unless France consented, which she would not do, to allow the communication of the nature of the arrangement to be made in London.

M. Leon y Castillo said that this was partly true; but that during the early days of October of last year the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs had, in confidence, given to Sir Mortimer Durand at San Sebastian a verbal sketch of the "grandes lignes" of the 1902 Accord;* and that during the latter part of your negotiation with M. Cambon, M. Delcassé had more than once assured him (M. Leon y Castillo) that the British Government fully knew its nature and were satisfied with it.

My Spanish colleague, whose excitement over the question has suffered no diminution, told me in the course of our conversation that during the original negotiations, when the Queen Regent of Spain was in Paris, and was waited upon by M. Loubet and M. Delcassé, the question of Morocco was alluded to, and that M. Loubet said to Her Majesty: "Eh bien, Madame, nous vous cédons Fez pour vous être agréable." I made him repeat this statement two or three times."

In reply to my suggestion that he ought to have got from Madrid a photographic reproduction of the "projet de Convention," drawn up in M. Lecomte's handwriting, so that I might have ocular proof of an allegation which is now denied, he said that it could, of course, be procured, but would take time, of which there is none to lose; but that he had in his possession at the Embassy several "projets" which had been modified, and had consequently not been sent to Madrid, some articles of which are in M. Delcassé's own handwriting.

These he is quite willing to take over to London, and to show to your Lordship privately; but I said that this proceeding would be extremely irregular, and was one to which your Lordship could hardly consent.

He said that he could not forward them to the Duc de Mandas, but that he could show them to me on any occasion I liked.

He is convinced that M. Delcassé wants to get the Spanish Government to declare that they cannot accept his terms; when he will decline finally to offer anything more, and state that if Spain will not have what is offered, France will say that, England having left the matter in her hands, Spain must go without anything.

In reply to my observation that M. Cambon's "historique" differed considerably from what he had told me, he said that he had known enough of M. Cambon when the latter was formerly French Ambassador at Madrid, to be convinced of his systematic untruthfulness.

He added that, of course, M. Cambon's attitude was now greatly changed from what it was in those days, when he drew up, or assisted in the drawing up of, a Secret Treaty (which never proceeded beyond a draft scheme), for the eventual partition

* There is no trace of anything of this kind having occurred.

between France and Spain, of the whole of the Moorish Empire, in virtue of which Spain was to receive the littoral and adjacent regions, and France the Hinterland.

I must again apologise for the hastiness with which this despatch has been written; but I am most anxious to forward it by to-night's messenger. I can only add that M. Leon y Castillo implored me to repeat to your Lordship how much he and his Government hoped for your aid, the refusal to grant which would mean that Spain must renounce all hope of having justice done her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 146.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 260.)

Foreign Office, May 16, 1904.

Sir,

I REPEATED to the French Ambassador this evening the substance of the observations which the Spanish Ambassador made to me this morning with regard to the manner in which the French Government was attempting to describe the two Spanish spheres of influence in Morocco. I told him that I could not help thinking that there was some force in the Duc de Mandas' observation that the Spaniards would, under the proposed arrangement, be excluded from three important valleys, which they naturally regarded as "voies de pénétration" into the interior. His Excellency told me that the Duc de Mandas was entirely mistaken in supposing that it was desired to commence the boundary of the northern sphere at a point distant from the River Muluya and within a few miles of Melilla. The Muluya was a stream which sometimes ran dry, and it had been thought preferable that the frontier should follow a line of low hills running parallel with the river. I begged his Excellency to repeat to M. Delcassé what I had said in support of the Spanish contention, and, in regard to the Muluya, I expressed a hope that it would be found possible to adopt the river itself as the frontier. The point could not be one of great importance to the French Government. His Excellency said that he would not fail to communicate my observations to M. Delcassé, and gave me to understand that, in his own opinion, it might be found possible to adopt the bed of the stream as the frontier, if the Spaniards were not obstructive at other points. It was, however, out of the question to give them Wazan, with the Chief of which France had entered into arrangements, and therefore the valley of the Sebou could not possibly be included in their sphere.

In the southern sphere liberal provision had, he thought, already been made for the satisfaction of Spanish interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 147.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 60.)

Foreign Office, May 16, 1904.

Sir,

THE Spanish Ambassador asked me to give him an interview to-day, and told me that the Spanish Government had been much disappointed at M. Delcassé's attitude with regard to the definition of the Spanish spheres of influence in Morocco.

It was true that the French Government had given up the idea of making the western frontier of the northern sphere begin at Melilla, but they had not moved it back to the actual mouth of the Muluya River, but to some heights of land situated between the river and Melilla. His Excellency pointed to a spot on the map which would apparently have placed the beginning of the frontier within about 20 miles of the latter place, but he was evidently in ignorance of the precise nature of the French proposal. He insisted, however, that it would have the effect of giving the whole valley of the Muluya to France, as well as the coast opposite the Zafarin Islands.

On the Atlantic coast, the southern limit of the same sphere, instead of commencing at the mouth of the Sebou River, was, his Excellency said, to be fixed at a point considerably further to the north.

Passing to the southern sphere, the northern boundary, instead of reaching, as was proposed in 1902, the River Sus, was to be drawn considerably further to the

south. I said that I had been informed that the French Government were now willing that the line should start at the mouth of the Mesa instead of at Ras Agula, as they had at first proposed. His Excellency was apparently not aware of this modification. He pointed out to me, however, with much earnestness, that the effect of the French proposals was to close to Spain the valleys of the Muluya, the Sebou, and the Sus, thus denying to her these "voies de pénétration."

I told his Excellency that I would mention what he had said to his French colleague when I next saw him, but that it seemed to me that there must be other "voies de pénétration" within the regions which were to be recognized as falling under Spanish influence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 148.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 16, 1904.

ACCORDING to information furnished me by French Minister, it would appear that the Sultan has only an incomplete, and possibly misleading, Arabic translation of the Anglo-French Agreement, and M. Saint-René Taillandier has asked me whether there would be any objection to his transmitting an authentic translation to His Majesty through the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I thanked my colleague for his courtesy in consulting me, and told him that I saw no objection; on the contrary, I thought it desirable that a correct translation should be transmitted to the Sultan, but I should like to ask your Lordship.

No. 149.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 17, 1904.

FRENCH Minister informs me that the majority of the Moorish Ministers are ready to co-operate cordially in carrying out the Agreement, but I gather from my colleague that the Sultan has adopted the attitude of ignoring that any new situation has been created, and therefore his Ministers can do little until His Majesty relents. The latter appear to be afraid to approach the Sultan on the subject of the Agreement, and His Majesty's attitude is hampering loan negotiations, and is a little perplexing to deal with, but it is probable that he will not maintain it for long.

No. 150.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 17, 1904.

ANGLO-FRENCH Declaration as to Morocco.

I approve the proposal, as contained in your telegram No. 39 of yesterday, to send an authentic translation to the Sultan.

No. 151.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 53.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 17, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 69, Confidential, of the 5th instant, and I approve the terms of the message which you have conveyed through Sir H. Maclean to the Sultan on the subject of the Anglo-French Declaration in regard to Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 152.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 262.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 18, 1904.

THE French Ambassador told me to-day, with reference to what I had said to him on the 16th instant as to the limits of the Spanish sphere of influence in the north of Morocco, that on the morning after our conversation he had received from M. Delcassé a letter informing him that he had decided to allow the Spanish sphere to extend up to the River Muluya, in the hope that this concession, to which the Spanish Government attached much importance, would terminate the discussion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 153.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 289.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 18, 1904.

TO-DAY'S "Dépêche Coloniale" contains the inclosed article on the prospects of the proposed French loan to Morocco.* It announces that the conflicting interests of the various financial groups which desired to bring out the loan have been harmonized under the influence of the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, that the success of the loan is assured, and that a large field is now open to French enterprise in the territories of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 154.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 19, 1904.

LAST night Reissuli, the brigand who captured Mr. Harris last year, accompanied by a numerous band of natives attacked the country house of Mr. Perdicaris, an American citizen, and carried him off, together with his stepson, Mr. Varley, a British subject. The house is situated about three miles from Tangier.

The brigands entered the house at about 9 p.m., when the family was in the drawing-room, knocked down and threatened the ladies, bound the servants, and carried off the two above-mentioned gentlemen. Mr. Perdicaris is a rich and old resident, and is highly respected by Europeans and natives.

Cid Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Deputy here, has been informed by Mr. Gummere, the American Consul-General, and myself, that we insist on any terms demanded by Reissuli being immediately granted, and that we hold the authorities

* Not printed.

personally responsible. Reissuli has for some time been nominally the subject of a search by the authorities, and he will probably make exaggerated demands.

A special courier has been dispatched to Court to have orders at once sent to Cid Mohammed Torres, to comply with all requests made by Mr. Gummere and myself.

The English cable to Gibraltar is broken, so please use the French cable for telegrams.

No. 155.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 19, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 41 of to-day's date.

Cid Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Deputy here, promises to do all in his power to procure the release of captives to the extent of meeting all demands which Reissuli may make, and is acting well. His friendly action will expedite and facilitate matters. Deputy also states that the authority of the Sultan and that of the Moorish Government are absolutely nil in these districts.

I am anxious to know what Reissuli's demands will be.

No. 156.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 66. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, May* 17, 1904.

THE French Ambassador spoke privately some time ago, warning the Minister of State of the danger of having only Military Governors in the Spanish possessions on the north coast of Africa.

These are often sent to their post to get them out of the way, and certainly the Military Governors appear in Spain much less amenable to discipline than the Civil ones. I have already reported to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 64 of the 8th instant, the exceedingly foolish language of the Governor of Ceuta.

It appears, therefore, desirable that there should be Civil Governors to develop peacefully the Spanish commerce and general interests, and if occasion offers I shall mention this personal impression of mine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 157.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 20.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 20, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 42 of yesterday's date.

I am informed by Mr. Gummere that his Government have approved his action regarding the captives, and they have announced that a United States' war-ship is being sent without delay to Tangier.

No. 158.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 71. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May* 12, 1904.

I RECEIVED on the 10th instant a letter from Sir H. Maclean, reporting that at an audience which he had of the Sultan on the 5th instant His Majesty had spoken in the

following terms. I think it better to give His Majesty's words verbatim as they were reported to me:—

The Sultan said that he and his Government are greatly disturbed about the Agreement. That he understands that he requires outside assistance, but before accepting such assistance he must have perfect confidence in the party rendering it. "No one," he said, "would ask any one to put his house in order until he was sure that the party was trustworthy and capable, and would not appropriate the house." From all the reports which he received the French were speaking as if Morocco already belonged to them, and even the agent in Fez of the French Bank spoke in the same way. He was much surprised I had not written to him about the Agreement, as it was of such vital importance to him; but that he had complete confidence in me, and he could not believe that my Government and myself would entirely desert him. He wished to inquire of me whether Great Britain and France would give him a guarantee that when his country is in order, and his Government able to act for themselves in as satisfactory a manner as Japan had done, the French would withdraw. His Majesty said he would not allow any one to assist him unless he had such a guarantee, and he would not accept a loan or anything else from the French unless he was assured on this point; and he added that his people would not stand it. He was most anxious to put his country in order, and that all his troubles had been caused by his desire to do so. He also perfectly understood the necessity of having Europeans at the customs-houses, and also to organize his finances and other branches of administration, but it would be most unwise to obtain such assistance from one Power only, and especially from a Power that openly avowed its desire to take his country. It appeared to him, moreover, that the French wished to use him as an instrument for that purpose, and this he could not admit. His Majesty inquired if I could not understand this? He requested Sir H. Maclean to communicate the above to me in strict confidence, and to give him my reply directly it was received. If by some means it could be definitely arranged that the French should eventually withdraw and never absorb his country, the situation would be quite different. His Majesty added that he wished to inform me very privately that he knew that Germany was still his friend, and that "everybody" said that we had behaved most unkindly to him. The Sultan said this with no animus or bitterness.

Sir H. Maclean promised to convey this message to me, and endeavoured to reassure His Majesty as to the intentions which he had attributed to the French Government.

I have requested Sir H. Maclean to tell the Sultan from me that, as I have no doubt of His Majesty's friendly feelings towards me, and as I am equally convinced he is aware that my friendship towards him is undiminished, I can speak quite frankly without fear of being misunderstood. I repeated in substance the message I had previously sent, and which I reported in my despatch No. 69 of the 5th instant, and I added that I did not think it would be wise on his part to seek to obtain from us a guarantee of the nature which he had indicated, as we had engaged not to obstruct France in her efforts to assist him in extricating his country from her present difficulties. I would strongly recommend him to meet French offers in a conciliatory spirit, as I was sure they would eventually be for his own benefit and for the good of his country. I myself did not believe that the French contemplated the absorption of Morocco, but that doubtless they did wish to assist the Sultan in improving and developing it. My own personal opinion was that His Majesty's position would become far stronger, and his authority far more efficacious and extensive, if he allowed the French to assist him in introducing reforms and improvements and in re-establishing order.

It is not surprising that the Sultan is perturbed and anxious, and that he views with suspicion an Agreement to which he was not a party, and of which he considers himself the victim. I think that these fears and hesitations, if he is approached with caution and delicacy, will gradually pass away; and my French colleague tells me that his secretary was received in no unfriendly way by the Sultan, though His Majesty was evidently under the influence of those elements among his Government who are hostile to the new departure.

I do not think that the allusion His Majesty made to Germany had any special significance, or is to be attributed to any communications which may have passed since the publication of the Agreement between the German Legation and the Court. I will endeavour to obtain some further information on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 159.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 72.)
Tangier, May 13, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Maclean, reporting on the condition of his Consular district and the general feeling towards the Anglo-French Agreement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 62.)
Dar-al-Baida, May 10, 1904.

Sir,

THE excitement over the first news of the conclusion of the Anglo-French Agreement has to some extent subsided. The feeling is still bitter, but the more intelligent classes of Moors are realizing that it would be hopeless to attempt to oppose French influence by force, and are resigning themselves to the inevitable.

At the same time, it is necessary to bear in mind that the country population does not comprise many men of intelligence, and there is little doubt that at the first signs of the Government being influenced against its will by European advisers there will be disturbances. From all over the country I receive reports of the crops being in a splendid condition, and it is anticipated that there will be a large export trade.

The Shereef "Ma-el-Aineen," from Sagiat-el-Hamra, arrived here on Friday last, and left on Sunday for Rabat *en route* to Fez. He was escorted by a body of followers, dressed picturesquely in blue, and mounted on camels. Ma-el-Aineen and his brothers exercise great influence in the south, extending from Sus to Senegal, and I gather that he is far from being reconciled to the introduction of French influence.

Bel Khedra, Kadi of Fez, has arrived in Rabat. He confidentially declares the feeling in Fez as one of bewilderment. He says officials do not talk much, as they are afraid of exciting the people to foolish acts, and they are also uncertain of their own positions, so distrust each other. It seems that Ben Sliman, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is the object of general execration. A Fez Ameen told me that not a single individual in Morocco who thought about politics at all ever dreamt that it was possible that England would consent to a French predominating influence in the country. This was the keystone of their policy. While writing I have received a report from Mr. Vice-Consul Neroutsos, who informs me that there is a growing feeling of fanaticism. I think this may be greatly accounted for by the return of the Hadjes from the pilgrimage. Fanaticism is always more observable at this period of the Mussulman year.

Showia is a little unsettled. Kaid Hadj-el-Mati, of Statt, has received an urgent summons to Fez; Kaid Lyashy, of Ooled Said, has received a similar unwelcome invitation. Kaid Hamimo, of Zenata, has been made prisoner, and yesterday the Zenata tribe was stated to be in revolt. Caravans were turned back, but I believe it is only a commotion among the people consequent on the arrest of the Kaid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MACLEAN.

No. 160.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 304. Confidential.)
Paris, May 20, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAD a few minutes' conversation the day before yesterday with M. Leon y Castillo at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before the opening of the meeting for the signature of the Protocol relating to the International White Slave Trade Agreement.

My Spanish colleague asked me whether I had had any instructions regarding the

Franco-Spanish negotiations on the Morocco question, and on my telling him that I had none, he said that in that case he feared that Spain would be done out of half her rights in that country.

I, in my turn, asked him whether he had any fresh orders from Madrid, but it did not appear from his answer that he had received any.

He saw M. Delcassé immediately after our meeting above referred to broke up, and I have not seen him since.

I confess to being puzzled by the contradictions and inconsistencies which have cropped up in the various discussions which have taken place on this subject, but I am inclined to think that M. Leon y Castillo's version of the 1902 negotiations is fairly correct. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Madrid seems neither to have kept the Spanish Ambassador in London well informed, nor to have been able to keep in mind accurately for itself what had really occurred in Paris.

As for M. Leon y Castillo himself, he lost sight of the difference in value between a signed and an unsigned understanding, and was led by his sanguine belief in his own achievements to overlook the maxim that "there is no such thing as sentiment in business transactions."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 161.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 21, 1904.

THE aspect of affairs is, I regret to state, by no means satisfactory. So far as I can ascertain, Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley have been taken to a mountainous district, some distance from here, by there captors. As yet I have received no definite information as to what terms will be demanded, but they will be exhorbitant, I fear. Communications with Reissouli will be slow and difficult under these circumstances.

European residents have been naturally much alarmed by recent outrage, and they feel that they cannot rely on the local authorities for proper protection, and that they are exposed to similar risks. The natives consider they are now at liberty to act towards Europeans as they please and with impunity.

The outrage has encouraged the Anti-Christian feeling amongst them.

No. 162.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 21, 1904.

CAPTURE of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

Your telegram No. 43 of yesterday.

If you consider presence of British warship desirable, you will, of course, let us know.

Such demonstrations usually tend rather to hamper negotiations for the liberation of captives.

No. 163.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 22, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 27, local protection will be secured by the American man-of-war expected to-day or to-morrow. The presence of a British man-of-war appears to me unnecessary for the present, at any rate.

No news, direct or indirect, has yet reached us from the captives, nor have any of our intermediaries either returned themselves or sent in any message. I am consequently

becoming uneasy, as I fear that Reissouli, who himself is probably desirious of liberating the captives upon conditions, may be overruled by the wild tribes amongst whom he is said to have taken them.

We are endeavouring to open up communication with the captives through the two Shereefs of Wazzan, who are leaving here this morning; reassuring news may therefore reach us in a day or two.

No. 164.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 22, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 45 of to-day's date, Reissouli has sent in his terms, which are exhorbitant, but I think that, without admitting them all, an arrangement is possible. We can now commence negotiations.

News has also arrived from the captives, who say they are being well treated.

No. 165.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 23, 1904.

I AM informed by M. Saint-René Taillandier that the Sultan is desirous of sending a circular protesting against the Anglo-French Declaration, and that his Ministers doubt that they will be able to prevent His Majesty from taking this step, although they themselves are opposed to it.

A few days ago I was informed by Sir H. Maclean that, at the request of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he would advise the Sultan to desist from his intention. I was under the impression the project had been abandoned, but I am writing to Sir H. Maclean to advise the Sultan that, in present circumstances, such a step would be unwise.

No. 166.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 25, 1904.

WITH reference to the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

Reissouli, in reply to counter-proposals for the release made by Mr. Gummeré and myself, has merely increased his original demands, which were themselves excessive. The answer to another solution made by us has not yet been received, but, as the captor considers himself in a position to dictate any terms, I now doubt if the reply will be satisfactory. Rumours are afloat that others are intending to make further captures of Europeans, and there is a great and well-founded feeling of insecurity here. As yet no American war-ship has arrived at Tangier.

No. 167.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 25.)

(No. 33. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, May* 25, 1904.

FRANCE, Spain, and Morocco.

Minister of Foreign Affairs stated to me this afternoon that the outlines of the arrangement between France and Spain about Morocco were fairly settled. He

thought, however, that the drawing up of the details, which is a matter requiring delicate handling, would last some time longer.

M. Delcassé expressed much satisfaction at a conversation, reported to-day in the "Figaro," which a correspondent of that paper had with Señor Silvela.

I am sending by post a copy of this paper.

No. 168.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 26, 1904.

WITH reference to the release of the captives.

The following conditions are insisted on by Reissouli. The terms subsequently added to the original demands are included:—

1. A large number of prisoners to be released.
2. The Governor of Tangier to be dismissed.
3. Government troops, which were sent by Sultan to keep order in these districts, to be recalled to Fez.
4. About 11,000*l.* to be paid to Reissouli, which amount is to be obtained by sale of properties of Governor of Fez and of his cousin the Governor of Tangier. Reissouli will not accept payment from any other source.
5. Two small districts, free from Government control and taxes, to be handed over to Reissouli by the Sultan.
6. A former Sheikh of a neighbouring district to be arrested and imprisoned, together with his two brothers. The Sheikh of another district also to be arrested and imprisoned.
7. A turbulent tribe, which is now in the district where Reissouli is encamped, to be allowed to return to its villages in the plains and also to frequent the town markets.

Immunity to captor for past will doubtless be added to above terms, which are, he declares, his irreducible minimum, and he states that negotiations are useless, but in order to save time he would accept our guarantee for fulfilment of those conditions requiring the sanction of the Sultan. Our counter-proposals were rejected, but we have as yet received no reply to another solution which I suggested, *i.e.*, in return for abandonment of all conditions and for immediate release of captives a free pardon to be granted to Reissouli. The acceptance of this solution, however, we now think improbable.

Mr. Gummeré, having no cypher, hesitates to send the above to his Government *en clair*, and he would be grateful if we would communicate the terms to them.

No. 169.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 26, 1904.

MY telegram No. 49 of to-day.

Release of captives.

If Reissouli's conditions are accepted it would be a complete capitulation, and the effect on the authority of the Moorish Government, and also on the prestige of Europeans, would be most serious.

Moreover, while greatly increasing the captor's reputation among all the tribes, and placing him in an independent position, we should guarantee him practically from all fear of punishment. It would have been quite another matter to have granted him a free pardon without any other conditions.

If, however, we concede these terms we shall be compelled, to avoid a breach of faith, to prevent the Moorish Government from bringing the man to justice hereafter, and we should also be obliged to see that all the terms were carried out; we should, therefore, be placing ourselves in a most unsatisfactory position.

A detention of the captives for any prolonged period would, on the other hand,

be exposing their health to grave risks, that of the United States' citizen especially, as he is in a very delicate state of health and is an elderly man. The captives are confined in a small room.

In all probability, as time passes, the demands will increase; and as the problem is of so perplexing a nature, I should be grateful to be furnished with your Lordship's views on the subject. It is most important that the liberation of the captives should be procured as soon as possible.

In view of the health and age of one of the captives I dare not risk, as in other circumstances I should have been inclined to do, to break off all negotiations, holding Reissouli responsible for any injury the captives might suffer, and then wait to see what course he would follow.

The United States' Consul-General would be very grateful if above views, in which he entirely concurs, could be communicated to his Government.

No. 170.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May 26, 1904.*

I AM leaving to-night for Paris and London. Embassy will be in charge of Mr. Marling.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 27 on the subject of Morocco, which I received to-day, confirms what I was told by Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, that on territorial questions an understanding has been reached, but a fortnight might be occupied in drawing up the details.

No. 171.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 27, 1904.*

REFERRING to my telegrams Nos. 49 and 50 of the 26th instant.

Muley Hamed, one of the Shereefs of Wazzan, who has been in the district where the captives are, has just returned to Tangier.

The seven demands mentioned in my telegram No. 49 are insisted on by Reissouli, who threatens to put forward further conditions if above are not conceded.

All other proposals or modifications are rejected by him, but he does not ask for immunity for past; so that, unless this clause is added at the last moment, our hands and those of the Moorish Government are free to bring him to justice when the first favourable opportunity presents itself.

There seems no alternative but to grant the seven demands in order to save captives. Mr. Gummeré would be grateful if your Lordship would communicate above to the United States' Government. Please send me a reply as soon as possible.

No. 172.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 17, 1904.*

THE French Minister mentioned to me yesterday that the reports which he received from Fez were satisfactory in so far as regarded the general disposition of the chief Moorish officials towards the recent Agreement, but that he was a little troubled in respect to the attitude of the Sultan. He understood from the despatches of Count Saint Aulaire that His Majesty had adopted an exceedingly reserved attitude, and apparently declined to discuss the matter with his Ministers, and that, indeed, he had secluded himself, as far as was possible, from seeing any of the latter, with the exception of the Grand Vizier, Ci Fedool Ghamit, whose views were opposed to the admission of any European advice or assistance. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of

War—the two most cordial adherents to an understanding with France—were much perplexed by this attitude of the Sultan, and were afraid to approach His Majesty on the subject of the Agreement. M. Saint René Taillandier said, further, that he was given to understand that the Sultan was in possession of an Arabic translation of the Anglo-French Declaration, but that this translation was an incomplete and misleading one; and he had, in these circumstances, conceived the idea of supplying the Minister for Foreign Affairs with a correct and authorized translation, which he would send formally to his Excellency, with a request that it should be communicated to the Sultan. This would not only put His Majesty in possession of an accurate version of the Declaration, but would give the Minister for Foreign Affairs a good opportunity of discussing the instrument with, and of explaining it fully to, the Sultan. He was unaware whence the faulty translation had been procured. As the document was a bi-lateral Agreement he did not wish to take the above-mentioned step without previously consulting me, and he would be glad to know whether I saw any objection to the course he proposed.

I thanked my French colleague for his courtesy in speaking to me on the subject, and though I personally saw no objection to what he suggested, and indeed considered that it was desirable that the Sultan should be furnished with a correct translation of the Declaration, I should like to communicate with your Lordship before giving a final answer. I added that my information was also to the effect that the Sultan was troubled and irritated at the conclusion of the Anglo-French Agreement, but it could hardly be expected that His Majesty would at the outset accept the new situation without exhibiting some ill-feeling and resentment. I inquired whether Count Saint Aulaire had not had an opportunity at his recent audience of the Sultan of explaining the nature and scope of the Agreement. My French colleague said that Count Saint Aulaire had made a discreet allusion to the subject, but that the Sultan had affected to take no notice of it. His Majesty was still under the influence of the factions at the Court who were opposed to the introduction of any European element, and he heard that several harebrained steps had been suggested to His Majesty. My French colleague did not anticipate that the Sultan would continue for long in his present moody and discontented silence; still, unless some steps were taken to enlighten him as to the new condition of things, he might in a moment of impatience commit some act which would be embarrassing, and in any case the present deadlock was perplexing and inconvenient.

M. Saint René Taillandier informed me that he was happy to hear from Paris that a satisfactory arrangement had been arrived at between the rival French houses, and that, therefore, there was no longer any fear of an unfortunate competition at the Shereefian Court for loans and concessions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 173.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 28, 1904.*

ON the evening of the 18th instant, about 8·45 P.M., the country house of Mr. Perdicaris, situated about 3 miles outside Tangier, was suddenly surrounded by the highwayman Reissouli, at the head of a numerous band, variously computed at 100 to 150. Having secured the Moorish guards and stablemen without any alarm being given, they entered the house by the servants' premises. Hearing great turmoil and shrieks from the servants' quarters, Mr. Perdicaris and his stepson, Mr. Varley, proceeded to the rooms, and were immediately surrounded and bound. The European women servants were threatened with rifles, while two of the European men servants sought safety in flight, a third being badly handled. Mrs. Perdicaris and Mrs. Varley, who had followed their husbands to the scene, were thrown down and also threatened with rifles, the former lady receiving serious injuries in her fall. The malefactors then led Mr. Perdicaris and Mr. Varley to the stables, compelled them to mount, and at once decamped. The whole affair lasted barely fifteen minutes. The attack was evidently carefully planned, and as the private grounds round Mr. Perdicaris' house are of considerable extent and well wooded, the assailants were able to conceal themselves till the moment for action arrived. Mr. Perdicaris is an American citizen of

wealth and position, and has resided for over thirty years in Tangier, where he is respected by all classes and all races for his benevolence and kindness of heart. He has never interfered in any Governmental or tribal affairs, and there could not possibly be any personal animosity against him. Mr. Varley is a British subject.

On hearing the news, and having taken measures for the protection of the family and house, the United States' Consul-General and myself informed the local authorities of what had occurred, and on the morning of the 19th instant we visited the Sultan's Deputy. We found his Excellency much upset by what had passed, and deeply grieved that a gentleman of Mr. Perdicaris' age and delicate health should have been subjected to such gross ill-treatment. He expressed himself ready to do all that was possible to enter into communication with Reissouli, from whom, indeed, he had already received a letter, stating that he required the immediate recall to town of the Government forces and the Governor who had been operating against some villages in the vicinity, and committing great atrocities on helpless women and children. The acts of this expedition are said to have been the motive for the capture of Mr. Perdicaris and Mr. Varley, so that the detention of these two gentlemen as hostages would enable the tribes to exact reparation from the Government. Reissouli further demanded the liberation of certain prisoners in Tangier gaol, and stated that when these concessions had been made he had other questions to discuss with the authorities. The Government forces and the Governor are, I am told, to return to Tangier to-day.

The Sultan's Deputy, Hadj Mohammed Torres, has dispatched a confidential messenger to Reissouli, informing him that he is ready to concede his terms and also, I understand, requesting to be informed what further demands he has to make. His Excellency told us that he was prepared to act on his own initiative in these matters, as the authority of the Sultan and of the Moorish Government were non-existent in these parts.

This intention on the part of the Sultan's Deputy will facilitate, and I hope expedite, negotiations when once they are formally opened; but Mr. Gunmere and myself thought it prudent to send a special courier to the Court at Fez, requesting that orders be sent to Hadj Mohammed Torres to comply with all and any requests which we might make with the object of obtaining the liberation of the captives. We have also taken other measures, which I need not particularize, for entering into communication with the captives, and for endeavouring to ascertain what are the requirements of their captors.

From information which has come in to town this morning, it would appear that the captives have been hurried off to a place among the Beni Aros, a wild tribe, at about twelve or thirteen hours' distance from here; and it is said that they are now lodged in the village where the two Spanish children, who were captured some four years ago, are supposed to have met their fate. Beyond a hasty and guarded line written by Mr. Perdicaris to his wife on the morning following the capture, we have had no news from the captives, and we are naturally most anxious to establish communication with them.

It is needless for me to make any comments on what has occurred, or to dwell on the audacity of the act.

I may add that Mr. Gunmere has obtained from his Government the dispatch of a man-of-war to Tangier, which is expected to arrive here to-day or to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 174.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 22, 1904.*

THE French Minister has informed me that he has received news from Oojdah that an engagement has been fought between the Government troops and the rebels, in which the former had been victorious. It would appear that the rebels, who were under the command of the son of Bu Amana, attacked the Government camp, and after severe fighting were repulsed from all points, losing a considerable number of men. I do not think that this success will have any important consequences, but it shows that the rebels intend to resume active operations. As to the Pretender himself, rumours

are as usual very conflicting, many stating that he has left Taza in vigorous health and with the intention of leading an active campaign, while others report that he is still at Taza awaiting the termination of the harvest, when his adherents will be more at liberty to join him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 175.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received May 28.)

Sir, *Admiralty, May 28, 1904.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram of this date No. 190, to the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 175.

Admiralty to Admiral Sir C. Domvile.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, May 28, 1904.*

FOREIGN Office asks that a ship may be sent at once to Tangier and remain there for the present for protection of British interests, in consequence of the capture of a British subject by brigand Chief, and prevailing sense of insecurity amongst residents. Commanding Officer to confer with His Majesty's Minister on arrival. Arrange accordingly, and report ship selected.

No. 176.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 28, 1904.*

IN order to safeguard Europeans here, it will be necessary to have some measures ready for their protection as soon as the results of negotiations are made known. Should Reissouli's terms be accepted, we should be held of no account, and repetitions of outrage might occur; on the other hand, should they be rejected, he will probably dispose of captives and try to raise the countryside against us.

M. Saint René Taillandier is in communication with Paris, regarding a scheme of organizing a local police force, with the assistance of some Algerians, and, as the local authorities are incapable of affording any efficient protection, this would be a good measure.

I understand that I am authorized to call for a ship or two when I consider circumstances require them.

No. 177.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 28, 1904.*

CAPTURE of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley. Your telegrams Nos. 49, 50, and 51.

You should inform the Moorish Government that, should any harm be done to British subject, they will be held responsible. But the demands are such that we cannot urge the Sultan to accede to them.

If the latter should offer terms, and provided that we do not make ourselves responsible for the fulfilment of his promises, I do not think it matters much what they are. It seems to me that it would not be advisable to break off negotiations abruptly.

Considerable concessions in regard to the first, fourth, fifth, seventh, and, perhaps, even the other demands, might probably be made by Sultan.

In order to restore confidence, Admiralty are sending ship of war to Tangier.

You should act in concert with the United States' Representative as closely as possible.

No. 178.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 29, 1904.

CAPTURE of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 30.

There are certain of the conditions made by the captor which the Sultan's Deputy, Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, is unable to grant on his own responsibility. His Excellency is forwarding all the demands to the Moorish Government, recommending their acceptance, and making it clear that there is no question of bargaining with Reissouli, whose conditions must be accepted in their entirety.

I have addressed an official letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman, informing him that His Majesty's Government hold the Moorish Government responsible should the British subject suffer any injury.

With the consent of Sid Torres, the Shereefs of Wazzan have been asked by us to inform Reissouli that Sid Torres has applied to the Sultan for authority to accept certain of his demands, for which His Majesty's sanction is necessary, but that a few days must elapse before the reply from Fez can arrive here.

Reissouli will, I trust, be satisfied with this and be patient, but the lives of the captives will be exposed to considerable risks, as some little time must elapse before the demands are carried out.

The United States' Government were informed by their Consul-General that important telegrams would reach them through the Foreign Office, through whom he requested their replies should be sent. No replies have, however, yet reached Mr. Gummeré.

No. 179.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 29.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 29, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 31 of to-day's date.

I am in frequent consultation with M. Saint-René Taillandier, and, since the commencement of the capture, I have kept him fully and confidentially informed of all that is passing.

No. 180.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 29, 1904.

CAPTURE of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

In view of interests of France in Morocco, you should confer freely with the French Minister regarding the situation created, &c.

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No. 177*.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 28, 1904.

WITH reference to the telegrams from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, which have been communicated to the Admiralty, on the subject of the capture by a brigand Chief of Mr. Perdicaris, a United States' citizen, and Mr. Varley, a British subject, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to request, if the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty see no objection, that a man-of-war may at once be dispatched from Gibraltar to Tangier to restore confidence in the British community at that port.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ELDON GORST.

No. 180*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1905.

CAPTURE of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

Your telegram No. 53 of the 29th instant.

We have received private information from the American Ambassador to the effect that the terms are regarded as preposterous by the President, whilst the guarantee appears to him to be incapable of fulfilment. Mr. Roosevelt has suggested that the French Government might render some assistance by lending their good offices.

An American fleet has been ordered to Tangier.

No. 181.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received May* 31.)

(No. 55.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May* 31, 1904.

CAPTIVES. With reference to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday's date.

At my request, M. Saint-René Taillandier has already instructed Comte Saint Aulaire, the French Secretary at Fez, to urge the Moorish Government to obtain the speedy liberation of the captives, abstaining from any discussion as to the terms demanded by Reissouli. I have also requested Mr. McLeod not to discuss the subject with the Moorish Government.

The arrest of one of the Sheikhs, who throughout recent rebellion remained loyal to the Sultan, will cause disappointment and discontent among his tribe, but I think that the Sultan will concede all demands.

Yesterday an American squadron of four ships arrived here.

No. 182.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 1.)

(No. 39.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, June* 1, 1904.

FRANCE, Spain, and Morocco.

I was informed by M. Delcassé this afternoon that the understanding about Morocco is quite settled in principle between the French and Spanish Governments, and will be formally concluded before long.

No. 183.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F. Lascelles.

(No. 126.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 1, 1904.

THE German Ambassador spoke to me to-day at some length in regard to that part of the recently-concluded Agreement between Great Britain and France which specially affected Morocco. I had no doubt, his Excellency observed, noticed the consternation which the conclusion of the Agreement had created in Spain. The shock had been so great that it might occasion the fall of the Monarchy and the establishment of a Republic. Monarchical institutions were not, his Excellency thought, securely established either in Spain or in Italy, and it would be a serious thing if all the three Latin Powers were to become Republican. His Excellency expressed serious apprehension as to the outcome of the negotiation said to be in progress between France and Spain in regard to Morocco. Germany could not remain indifferent if the result of these should be to give France access to the coast-line of the Mediterranean in the neighbourhood of the Straits of Gibraltar, and if the claim of Spain to have her existing rights maintained and her reversionary interests taken into account were to be ignored, it might become necessary for Germany to give Spain diplomatic support.

I told his Excellency that I had not seen either his French or Spanish colleagues since my return, and that I did not therefore know what stage the negotiations had reached. My impression when I left London had, however, been that they were likely to lead to a solution which Spain would be able to accept. I reminded his Excellency of the terms of Article VII of the Anglo-French Declaration, under which the two Powers are precluded from permitting the erection of fortifications or strategic works on that portion of the coast of Morocco which lies between Melilla and the River Sebou, and I pointed out that, irrespective of this stipulation, no one had proposed that Spain should be ousted from the positions which she at present occupied in Morocco. I had myself no doubt that the negotiations would end in securing for her a sphere of influence not only comprising a considerable portion of the coast-line, but also a certain extent of hinterland lying in the rear of it.

His Excellency explained that his observations were to be regarded as made to me unofficially.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 184.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 2, 1904.*

CAPTIVES. I am informed by M. Saint-René Taillandier that he received last night a telegram from M. Delcassé, stating that the United States' Ambassador in Paris had requested the good offices of the French Government regarding the liberation of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley. The French Foreign Minister inquired if M. Saint-René Taillandier had any suggestions to make regarding further action in the matter, in addition to steps taken already. Until the Sultan's reply to Reissouli's demands is received, both my French colleague and myself are of opinion that nothing further can be done. Reply should be received here on the 7th or 8th instant, I think.

There is much excitement here as to risks to which Europeans are exposed, and on account of the general insecurity. I spoke to my French colleague again to-day on the subject, informing him that I might have to request the presence of a British war-ship here, and, if urgent necessity called for it, parties would have to be landed for protection. The natives are becoming arrogant, and I do not at all exclude the possibility of further captures. The authorities cannot be relied on for any efficient protection, and it will take time to organize a police force.

No. 185.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 76.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 24, 1904.*

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a telegram from Lord Cromer giving me the substance of a message which Ci Menebhi, late Minister of War, desired should be conveyed to me. Ci Menebhi was anxious to know, in the first place, whether his British protection was still valid, and whether he could rely on his personal safety and his property being safeguarded. He stated that, if he could be reassured on this point, he would return here in order to dispose gradually of his property, and then retire to Egypt, where he proposed to reside permanently, as, under the new conditions, he feels it would be impossible for him to re-enter the service of the Moorish Government.

Ci Menebhi, who is apparently much excited against the French, further declared that he intended, were he to return to Morocco, to resist their influence to the utmost of his power.

I replied to Ci Menebhi to the effect that his British protection was still valid, and that he could be at his ease in regard to his personal safety and as to his property. At the same time I wished to tell him frankly and as a friend that, as long as he enjoyed British protection in Morocco, he must not act in a manner likely to create trouble or to hamper the task intrusted to the French. I reminded him that British protection in according privileges also imposed certain obligations. If he wished to come here to dispose of his property, and to live peaceably, I would welcome him with pleasure, but if he intended to act in the manner indicated by him, it would be better for him not to return. I also pointed out that if he frankly recognized the new situation and co-operated with the French, he was in a position to play a very useful part in this country.

I asked Lord Cromer to be kind enough to inform Ci Menebhi that I was sending him a letter, and I should be glad if he would wait in Cairo till he received it.

I have reason to believe that the French would welcome the co-operation of Ci Menebhi, as they fully recognize his activity and energy, as well as the considerable influence he exercises in the south of Morocco; he would be an able and useful coadjutor. On the other hand, there is no doubt that if Ci Menebhi were to lend his encouragement to the many elements in this country who are opposed to French intervention in Moorish affairs, very serious trouble would be created, and it would be impossible to permit this under cover of British protection. I therefore considered it would be advisable to speak quite plainly to Ci Menebhi, and I propose to make the point clear to him in a letter, which I could frame in more friendly and persuasive terms than is possible in the necessarily curt and brief form of a telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 186.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 77.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 26, 1904.*

THE French Minister informed me the other day that he had received information from Fez that the Sultan was contemplating the dispatch of a Circular note to the Powers protesting against the Anglo-French Declaration, and that his Ministers, who were opposed to such a step, hesitated to dissuade His Majesty from adopting this course, as any reference on their part to the above-mentioned instrument was never favourably received.

Sir H. Maclean had informed me some time ago that the Minister for Foreign Affairs had mentioned to him the intention of the Sultan, and at his Excellency's request he proposed to advise His Majesty to abstain from such a step, which could lead to no result. As I had heard nothing further on the subject, I was under the impression that the project had been abandoned. Before writing to Sir H. Maclean to renew, in my name, any representations he had already made, I inquired yesterday of the French Minister whether he had received any subsequent news on the question; and he told me that he had just received a further report from Count Saint Aulaire to the effect that the Sultan had reconsidered the matter, and had decided to send no Circular. He added that the Circular had already been drawn up and signed, and had been only awaiting His Majesty's final approval to be dispatched.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 187.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Tangier, May 26, 1904.*

I HAD the honour to send your Lordship by telegram to-day the full details of the conditions demanded by Reissouli before he releases the captives. I will await any instructions which I may receive from your Lordship on these points.

In the meantime I would beg leave to submit that it is of urgent importance to take into early consideration the question as to what measures should be adopted for guaranteeing public security in this town and its immediate neighbourhood. Whatever may be the final results of the negotiations for the liberation of the captives, there is no doubt that the sense of insecurity at present prevailing will be deepened. The natives will consider that the capture of Europeans is a facile and profitable undertaking, and there is, at present, no local force which is in any way capable of deterring others from following the successful example of Reissouli.

Several of my colleagues have spoken to me on the subject, and I have had some conversations with the French Minister. The latter tells me that he is in communication with his Government as to the possibility of organizing a local police force and night patrols, with an infusion of a few experienced Algerian elements. As this could be easily and speedily effected, and would excite no popular native feeling, it would suffice as a provisional measure.

It is vain to expect that the local authorities, acting on their own initiative and unaided, can organize any force which would give the slightest guarantee to the public. The matter is of urgency, and I venture to submit these few observations to your Lordship's consideration, in the hope that the question may be discussed with the French and possibly other Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 188.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 79.)

Tangier, May 28, 1904.

My Lord,

IT may be of convenience if I give your Lordship a narrative of the negotiations which have been passing subsequent to my despatch No. 74 of the 21st instant, on the subject of the liberation of the captives at present detained by Reissouli in the Beni Aroz district.

The messenger, who had been dispatched by Hadj Mohammed Torres on the 19th instant, returned to Tangier on the 22nd, and he was sent by the Sultan's Deputy to the Legation to communicate the demands of Reissouli. This man stated that Reissouli demanded the following concessions before he would release the captives:—

1. The payment of 70,000 dollars to indemnify himself and others for losses which they had incurred by the action of the Government troops. This sum was to be provided out of the sale of the properties belonging to the Governor of Tangier and to his cousin the Governor of Fez. He would accept payment from no other source.

2. The dismissal of the Governor of Tangier from his post.

3. The withdrawal of the Government forces which had been sent into these districts to maintain order.

4. The liberation of a certain number of prisoners who are detained in the Tangier gaol.

5. That a pardon should be granted to him for his past acts.

The United States' Consul-General and myself, with the consent of the Sultan's Deputy, authorized the messenger to convey to Reissouli the following terms which his Excellency was prepared to grant. We also requested the two Shereefs of Wazzan, who had, with the consent of the French Minister, placed their services at our disposal, to carry the same proposals to Reissouli.

The proposals were:—

1. That we would guarantee the payment of 20,000 dollars, but Reissouli need not inquire from what source the funds came.

2. That the Governor of Tangier should be dismissed subject to the Sultan's confirmation.

3. That the Government troops should be withdrawn to Tangier.

4. That the prisoners mentioned by him should be released.

We explained to the messenger that a pardon could not be granted in addition to the above very generous conditions. He assured us that Reissouli, whose relative he was, and who, we knew, had entrusted him with full powers, attached the greatest importance to a pardon, as he was tired of his wandering life. After a long discussion the United States' Consul-General and myself agreed that if Reissouli handed over the captives not later than Thursday, the 26th instant, and abandoned all his other conditions, we would guarantee that the Moorish Government would grant him a pardon for the past. The messenger stated that he was sure that this solution would be gladly accepted by Reissouli.

On the 24th instant I received a letter from Muley Ali, one of the Wazzan Shereefs, stating that Reissouli insisted on the acceptance, without any modification, of his previous demands, to which he added the following:—

1. That to the number of prisoners who were to be liberated should be added those of the Beni Ider tribe who were confined in the prisons of Tangier, Tetuan, and Laraiche.

2. That the villages of Briesh and Zeenats, with naturally the lands belonging to them, should be handed over to him, and be free from all Government control and from payment of all taxes. Reissouli stated that, in order to save time, he would not wait for the Shereefian letters in regard to this and the other conditions requiring the Sultan's sanction if we gave him a guarantee that the demands would be accepted.

3. That the Beni Aroz tribe should be permitted to come to the town markets, and to repeople their villages on the plains.

4. That a former Sheikh of the Beni M'sauer tribe, together with his brothers, and also the Sheikh of the Wad Ras tribe, with his nephew, should be arrested and imprisoned. He also stated that the Government troops were to be withdrawn to Fez, and that he would not be satisfied with their recall to Tangier.

Muley Ali added that he had done his utmost to induce Reissouli to modify these excessive demands, but without any success.

The Sultan's Deputy subsequently received a communication from the messenger to whom I have alluded above, stating that his mission had completely failed, and repeating the conditions, which were similar to those communicated by Muley Ali, on which alone Reissouli would liberate the captives.

In a letter dated the 25th instant we asked Muley Ali to point out to Reissouli that it would be in his own interests to moderate his demands and release the captives. I beg leave to inclose copy of the reply which I received from Muley Ali, as well as a translation of a letter from Reissouli to him.

I have written to Muley Ali, in my own name and that of the United States' Representative, to say that the conditions demanded by Reissouli are being considered; that it is not a question which can be decided at once, but that a reply will be sent as soon as possible.

We do not propose to make any further communications till we are in possession of the views of our respective Governments.

The problem is a perplexing one. Reissouli evidently considers that he is master of the situation and can dictate any terms, and as he is a desperate man, he would not flinch from adopting any extreme measures towards the captives, were his demands rejected. On the other hand, these demands are difficult for any Government to accept, and are beyond all measure and all reason.

If, in order to hasten the liberation of the captives—and this is a most important point—we gave the guarantee that all the demands requiring the sanction of the Sultan would be accepted by the Moorish Government, we should doubtless have to bring strong pressure to bear at Fez to obtain the fulfilment of conditions which his Majesty and his Ministers would feel very great difficulty in granting. We should be placed in the invidious position of urging the Moorish Government to make a complete capitulation to a man whom they regard as a rebel and as a brigand, while we should have to assume the responsibility of seeing that Government employés are dismissed and imprisoned and their properties sold, while requesting that Reissouli himself should receive free grants of villages and lands. If we declined to give this guarantee, and the Sultan's Deputy simply transmits to the Court at Fez the excessive demands of Reissouli, considerable time must elapse before the Moorish Government accede to the conditions, and in the meantime the lives of the captives would be exposed to the greatest risks, not only by the injury which would be caused to their health by the strain and inconvenience of a prolonged detention, but also because no confidence could be felt that Reissouli, in a moment of impatience, or under pressure from others, might not take extreme measures. It was in view of the above considerations and perplexities that the United States' Consul-General and myself felt it necessary to solicit instructions from our respective Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Muley Ali to Sir A. Nicolson.

Dear Sir Arthur Nicolson,

May 26, 1904.

I AM very sorry to have to say we have again failed to make Reissouli retract any of his former terms. I showed him the letter you sent me in Arabic and communicated yours of the 25th instant, but he is as inflexible as ever, and wanted to propose further inacceptible terms, and all our remonstrances were without avail.

Seeing that it was useless to continue wrangling with him, I got him to give me his answer in writing and have inclosed it. Letters are reaching him daily from different tribes begging him to release their prisoners. He got one yesterday from Uld Jaami in the Tetuan prison, asking him to get him and the prisoners concerned in Muley M'hamed's insurrection released. These are the terms he wanted to add, and I have managed to prevent him doing.

He is also in almost daily communication with some persons in Tangier, and I suspect they are urging him to resist. It is quite possible, if it were only done to annoy us, by making our mission a failure.

My determination is, if we cannot get to terms with Reissouli, to send my brother back with the animals which you so kindly got for us, and myself remain here to prevent as much as it will be in my power any bodily harm being done to the captives. You can rest assured you will not see me in Tangier without Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley, dead or alive. I think the only way out of the difficulty is to give in to Reissouli, as he has the advantage of being supported by all the tribes posing as a public benefactor. He also threatens that the longer the delay the more conditions he will put forward, and in the end, if he does not get what he wants or if force is employed, he will kill the captives.

With many regrets at having again failed,

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) MULEY ALI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Reissouli to Muley Ali.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 9 *Rabia I*, 1322 (*May* 26, 1904).

I RECEIVED the letter of the two Ministers on the subject of my demands. They say they will not accept any of them with the exception of the first (mentioned) prisoners, the removal of the Kaïd, the withdrawal of the Sultan's troops, and 20,000 dollars.

In reply, they must do what I mentioned at the end of my first letter, *i.e.*, release the Beni Ider prisoners, and imprison Hadj-el-Arbi of Wad Ras and his nephew Sid Mohammed Bejdad, and also Abdallah-el-Ashab, Sheikh of Beni Mesour, and his brethren who are in Tetuan. The removal of Wold-ben-Abdelsadek, Governor of Tangier, and the Sultan's troops to be withdrawn to whence they came, *i.e.*, Fez. Wold-ben-Abdelsadek to pay me my claim against him for my property and that of my men, *i.e.*, 70,000 dollars mentioned. Thereafter I will never do anything—never. You are not to try to bargain with me. The term is two days from this date.

Peace, &c.

P.S.—And the handing over to me of the two villages of Zeenats and Briesh mentioned once and twice.

No. 189.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 3.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 3, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 34 of yesterday. Captives.

At present I do not think that the lives of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley are in danger; I would not answer, however, for what might happen should the Sultan refuse to grant the terms demanded, or if negotiations are much prolonged. In former eventuality Reissouli has threatened to kill them.

Europeans here are somewhat reassured by presence of American squadron, which, if serious trouble arise, would be able to afford protection by landing parties.

No. 190.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 3, 1904.

ACCORDING to a message received from Washington by United States' Ambassador, it should be understood by your American colleague and the Moorish Government, that captor will be held responsible with his own life if Perdicaris be put to death.

No. 191.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 4.)

(No. 338. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, June* 3, 1904.

WHEN I saw M. Delcassé the day before yesterday General Porter had just left him, and I inquired what my American colleague had said to him as to the position of the captives. Mr. Perdicaris and Mr. Varley, who are in the hands of the Moorish outlaw Raissouli and his band.

M. Delcassé said that General Porter had come to express the hope of the United States' Government that the French Government would instruct their Minister at Tangier to use every means in his power to further the action of the United States' Representative, and to bring all his influence to bear upon the Sultan in the same direction.

His Excellency proceeded to say that he had been able to assure the United States' Ambassador that from the very outset the Government of the Republic had put in motion every means at their disposal to obtain the deliverance of the captives, and that they had not and would not relax their efforts. He had himself that very morning seen the First Secretary of the French Legation at Tangier, who was starting for his post, and given him full instructions in this sense. It was not, he feared, likely that the Sultan would listen to all the conditions propounded by Rassouli; and it must be remembered that, as a matter of fact, the Sultan's power did not appear to extend to a distance of more than a few kilometres from his own camp.

His Excellency hoped that the Secretary in question would prove to be right in the opinion that the prisoners' lives were in no danger, as it was never the policy of these Moorish brigands to put their captives to death.

M. Delcassé added that he did not understand the good of sending a whole squadron of American war ships to Tangier, for it was hardly likely that their presence would intimidate the brigands, while, on the contrary, it might lead to the detention of the prisoners being accompanied by additional discomfort.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 192.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 5.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 5, 1904.

WITH reference to the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

I am informed by the Shereef of Wazzan that the captor has asked that, when the 11,000*l.* is paid, it should be lodged in a Tangier bank to his credit, as he does not wish it forwarded to him in cash: and, in order that the Moorish Government cannot subsequently seize the sum, he also requests a written guarantee in Arabic from me to safeguard his money.

In replying to the Shereef, I have said that Mr. Gummeré and myself have considered the matter, and that neither of us can intervene in the manner suggested, as we are of opinion that the mode of payment of above sum, if the Sultan grants it, would have to be arranged between Reissouli and the Moorish authorities.

Captor's request is, I think, significant: as if he desires a guarantee regarding a relatively minor point he will, assuming that the Sultan grants his demands, require guarantees on other points of a more important character.

Sultan's reply should reach Tangier on Tuesday next, and, as we shall then be entering into a critical phase, I am asking the Admiral to let me have a war-ship here on that day.

No. 193.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 7.*)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 7, 1904.*

WITH reference to the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

Sid Abdelkrim ben Sliman has informed Mr. MacLeod that all Reissouli's demands have been conceded by the Moorish Government.

It will be well to await the arrival of Sultan's letters, which are on their way to His Shereefian Majesty's Deputy here, in order to see if the above is confirmed.

Mr. Perdicaris has, I regret to say, fallen ill, and Mr. Gummeré is endeavouring to obtain from Reissouli a safe conduct to that locality, so that an American naval doctor may proceed there.

His Majesty's ship "Prince of Wales" arrived this morning at Tangier.

No. 194.

Mr. Macleay to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Madrid, June 6, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during the afternoon Session of Congress on the 3rd instant, Señor Nocedal introduced a political debate by interpellating the Government on the subject of the negotiations now proceeding between France and Spain in regard to Morocco.

After criticizing the general policy of the Government, Señor Nocedal proceeded to speak in very pessimistic tones of the position of Spain in regard to Morocco, and of the probable outcome of the present negotiations at Paris.

Even supposing Spain were to be given any zones of influence, she would, he maintained, have to pay for them in some form or other—perhaps by the cession of the Chaffarine Islands. He believed that France was only playing with Spain, inducing her to waste time and men with the view to eventually appropriating all that was worth taking in Morocco.

On Saturday the President of the Council replied at length to Señor Nocedal's interpellation.

He declined to discuss the negotiations with France because they were not yet concluded; but he stated that the Government desired that the whole question of Morocco and of Spanish aspirations in that country should be freely debated in the Cortes.

He did not know on what grounds Señor Nocedal had based his assertion that the Cortes could not order the Government to put an end to the present negotiations. It was a matter of public knowledge that such negotiations were proceeding, and both Parliament and public opinion had been duly informed of the fact. Silence in such cases meant consent. If any one thought that the Government should not pursue the negotiations, let him stand up and say so.

Spain "had been present" in Paris and London ("estaba presente"), and had maintained her rights there before the negotiations which led to the conclusion of the Agreement between France and England were commenced, and the diplomatic declarations published and papers would in due course be laid to prove the truth of this statement. But even if Spain had been a powerful nation, the Anglo-French Agreement would still have been concluded, as it dealt with questions relating to Siam, Madagascar, and Egypt, &c.

Señor Nocedal had asked what were the rights of Spain in Morocco. By simply drawing a line on any map of the country it was possible to indicate where lay Spanish political and commercial interests, and the rights of Spain were defined in any historical treatise on Morocco.

Spain possessed sacred, historical, and indisputable rights in Morocco, but she was not, as Señor Nocedal had asserted, the only country which had any interests there. The Government were firmly maintaining the rights of Spain in the present negotiations, and were endeavouring to secure her future expansion. The task of Spain will be to spread enlightenment throughout Morocco by her civilization and her customs; but it must be realized that it is impossible to attempt to make

religious converts—in that respect the Moors had shown themselves to be absolutely intractable.

There was nothing to justify the assertions which had been made by Spaniards that their country had been humiliated, nor was there any truth in the statement that the Government proposed to give away or abandon any Spanish rights. The Government had quite recently approved the appropriation in the Estimates for the port of the Chaffarines and the works at Melilla.

Señor Maura concluded his speech, which was greatly applauded, by calling upon all the members of Congress to express their opinions on the subject, as in such questions the Government should represent the whole body of national feelings and aspirations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD MACLEAY.

No. 195.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 8, 1904.*

THE reply of the Moorish Government to Reissouli's demands has been communicated to me by Cid Mohammed Torres.

The latter is instructed by the Moorish Government, in the first place to send out his Secretary with certain of Reissouli's relatives to endeavour to obtain a modification in the demands of the bandit.

The dismissal of the Governor of Tangier, and the transfer of certain villages to Reissouli, have been promised by Moorish Government. The release of some of the prisoners would at once take place, and when the tribes are tranquil the remainder would be set free. Cid Mohammed Torres is authorized by the Moorish Government to inform Reissouli, regarding the arrest of the Sheikhs, that when it is possible this shall be effected. Should above not be accepted by Reissouli, the Sheikhs are to be induced to agree to a fictitious arrest, Cid Mohammed Torres promising them, on release of captives, immediate liberation and a reward.

The Government force is to be disbanded.

A reduction of amount of money demanded, and the immediate payment of what may be agreed upon, are two points which Cid Mohammed Torres' Secretary is to endeavour to effect.

Whether above will meet with Reissouli's satisfaction Cid Mohammed Torres has doubts, and it seems likely that negotiations may be prolonged in any case. When acceptance of certain of above demands becomes generally known, Cid Mohammed Torres is of opinion that this neighbourhood will fall into a state of complete anarchy. I consider that all Europeans will be exposed to daily and continual dangers unless some measures of a permanent character are taken for the maintenance of order.

I trust that the French Government will be induced to give the matter their immediate and serious consideration, as it is useless to expect anything from the Moorish authorities.

No. 196.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 8, 1904.*

CAPTIVES.

I have received an official communication from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which deep regret is expressed at the capture of a British subject, &c. As to the manner of executing Reissouli's demands, Ben Sliman asks United States' Consul-General and myself to consult with the Sultan's Deputy. I will tell Minister for Foreign Affairs, as I have already told Sultan's Deputy, that the speedy release of the captives is what we ask for, and we look to the Moorish Government to obtain it, but

with the means they employ we have nothing whatever to do; we hold them, however, responsible for any injury which might happen to Mr. Perdicaris or Mr. Varley.

Ben Sliman objected to the presence of the American men-of-war, and requested their withdrawal. I am replying that for the purpose of affording protection to the British Colony, which I fear the local authorities are unable to do, a British man-of-war has arrived here, but with foreign ships of war I have nothing whatever to do.

No. 197.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 10.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, June 10, 1904.

NEGOTIATIONS for the release of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

Some delay has arisen in the communications with Reissouli, as Sultan's Deputy declines to send his son, who is also his Secretary, as he fears for his safety. Hadj Mohammed Torres also says that he doubts if Reissouli's relatives will go out to see captor, but he has promised that in any case he will communicate Sultan's reply to Reissouli not later than the 13th instant. He states that the carrying out of the arrest of the Sheikhs is a physical impossibility, and that they will doubtless refuse to accept the fictitious imprisonment. There may therefore be a breakdown on this clause.

United States' citizen is better, and has no need for a doctor. Government force has been disbanded, and Governor of Tangier has been dismissed.

No. 198.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 10, 1904.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, June 10, 1904.

HIS Majesty's ship "Prince of Wales" would like to go back to Gibraltar on Monday next if possible. I propose to spare her, as she would be within easy reach, and American ships will remain here; but I hope that, for some time to come, a British war-ship will always be at Gibraltar.

No. 199.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord,

Tangier, June 1, 1904.

THE United States' Consul-General and myself visited the Sultan's Deputy, Hadj Mohammed Torres, on the 29th ultimo, and asked him, now that he was in possession of the conditions laid down by Reissouli for the liberation of the two captives, what steps he proposed to take to procure the release of our compatriots. His Excellency said that he could on his own authority, and in view of the orders he had received from his Government, meet without further delay certain of Reissouli's demands, such as the liberation of prisoners; but it was beyond his power, on his own initiative, to depose and imprison Government officials and make free grants of villages and lands to brigand Chiefs.

Hadj Mahommed Torres, who for many reasons is much perturbed and deeply pained at what has occurred, said that he would dispatch a special courier to Fez conveying the demands of Reissouli, and would explain to the Moorish Government that, in present circumstances, there was no other course open but to accept them. He asked my American colleague and myself to inform Muley Ali, the Wazzan Shereef, who is remaining with the captives, of the steps he was taking so that Reissouli might be made acquainted with them.

I addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy, informing his Excellency that His Majesty's Government would hold the Moorish Government responsible for any injury which might be caused to Mr. Varley, and urging him to obtain the immediate release of the captives.

I have told Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod that, in delivering this note to the Foreign Minister, he is to be careful to abstain from discussing or expressing any opinion on the demands which Reissouli has made.

I hardly expect that a reply can be received from the Moorish Government before the 6th or 7th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 199.

Sir A. Nicolson to Ben Sliman.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

Tangier, May 29, 1904 (12 *Rabia I*, 1322).

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul will have related to your Excellency the grievous outrage which has been committed on a British subject, Mr. Varley, who was carried off by Reissouli and a band of evildoers, and is now held in captivity. I am instructed by His Majesty's Government to inform your Excellency that they hold the Moorish Government responsible for any injury which may be caused to Mr. Varley, and that they look to the Moorish Government to obtain the immediate release of that gentleman.

Hadj Mohammed Torres has sent to your Excellency the first demands of Reissouli, and is now sending by special courier some further demands which this individual has made before he will release his captives.

I wish to impress on your Excellency the extreme urgency of the case, and the necessity of freeing the captives with as little delay as possible.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 200.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 81. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Tangier, June 4, 1904.

I HAVE discussed with several of my colleagues, and especially with the French Minister, the question of public security in this town and its immediate neighbourhood, and I have found no difference of opinion that the situation is by no means a satisfactory one, and that all Europeans, particularly those who reside outside the town walls, are exposed to considerable risks.

The attitude of many natives is arrogant and insolent, and reports are frequently reaching me and others that such and such European of mark is noted down as the next victim for capture. Doubtless, many of these reports are spread about either for the mischievous purpose of creating alarm, or have their origin simply in the fears of the more timid. Be this as it may, the results have been that many families have withdrawn from the suburbs to the town, and no one ventures to take any rides or walks into the country. After what has recently occurred it would not be safe to neglect or dismiss as improbable, any report, and the public generally are kept in a state of constant tension and anxiety.

It is felt, and truly felt, that the local authorities are practically powerless, and that little or no confidence can be placed in any efficient measures being adopted by them.

The presence of the American ships of war, who now number seven, has reassured the European population to a certain extent, but I do not gather that they have caused much impression on the natives, who do not contemplate the possibility of any action being taken on shore by landing parties, and consider that the scope of action of the ships would be strictly limited to the sea.

I explained to my French colleague that it seemed to me that the moment might arrive when I should have to ask for the presence of a ship of war here, with the view, should the necessity arise, of landing men for the protection of the British colony. Naturally such a step would not be taken unless the circumstances rendered it imperative; but it was not right, when measures for protection were at hand, to leave peaceful Europeans to the mercy of evil disposed natives. We should place ourselves

in a humiliating position, and would indeed incur a grave responsibility if we permitted any further outrages to be committed. If we were to adopt no measures to check and prevent the lawless acts of the natives, such acts would be continually repeated till the existence of Europeans here would become intolerable. I did not disguise from myself that measures of an extreme nature involved certain risks, but to neglect to adopt them was to invite graver dangers; and I was confident that the exhibition of a certain firmness, and the display of some force, would soon bring the natives to a more reasonable frame of mind. The organization of a local police force, under the supervision of some Algerian non-commissioned officers, would be a good measure, but I understood from him that this project, if approved by his Government and that of the Sultan, could not be put into execution for some time to come, and the problem with which we had to deal might have to be solved more expeditiously.

My French colleague is opposed to any measures which would entail the landing of foreign armed parties; and suggested that all Europeans should be requested to withdraw from the suburbs within the town walls. This would be impracticable, as the large majority of Europeans live outside the town and many could not leave their suburban residences unoccupied and unprotected. Moreover, the expense and inconvenience to which we should thereby subject our nationals would be considerable, while such an evident sign of the fear with which the natives inspired us, and so candid a confession of our inability to protect our nationals, would render the situation still more dangerous.

I trust that my forebodings and anxieties will not be realized, and that no occasion will arise for adopting any extreme measures, but I think it prudent to be prepared for any eventuality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 201.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 11.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June 5*, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit extracts from a letter which I have received from Mr. N. Verdon, the Private Secretary of Sir H. Maclean, which gives some interesting particulars as to the situation at Fez. I regret to say that Sir H. Maclean himself has been seriously indisposed for the past three weeks, and unable to attend to any business. He is now, however, on the road to convalescence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Mr. Verdon to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Extract.) *May* 31, 1904.

CI M. GABBAS (Minister of War) sent word to the Kaid yesterday evening that all arrangements had been made for accepting the French loan, and that all the documents had been sent in to the Sultan for approval, and would be returned either yesterday or this morning, and that the loan may now be considered settled. Ci M. Gabbas told Dr. Verdon "that it certainly was a great pity they had to borrow from France, but no one else would lend them any money, and they had none to go on with." The French intend to encourage the expenditure of this loan as rapidly as possible. They will probably advise the Sultan to send a further expedition against the Pretender. They are also anxious that the Sultan should return to Marrakesh, which cannot be done without an expensive expedition, and is obviously bad policy for the Sultan.

We have received letters from Marrakesh, which state that the tribes-people are very indignant with the Sultan, and say he has sold his country to France, and will soon have to abdicate, and that the French will rule Morocco.

That if they once find out that what are at present only rumours are in the main true, they will rise and proclaim a Jehad. Before Sir Harry was laid up the Sultan told him himself that his people will not stand any French intervention. The soldiers here have not been paid for seven days, and a great many are running away.

Sir Harry says there is only one way for the French to act if they are in earnest in their statements that they wish to help the Sultan.

1. They must insist in having His Shereefian Majesty's finances under control.

2. At once introduce at least 100 Algerian instructors, and set about getting together a reliable force to support the Sultan:—

If properly worked it would take a year to form an army, which, well armed and supplied with quick-firing guns and properly led, would be able to enforce the Sultan's authority, and enable the Government to collect taxes.

The tribes on the plains would be first put in order and then the hill tribes. That it is perfectly useless for the Sultan to go on an expedition with his army as it is at present, and until the Sultan is strong enough to enforce his authority, the tribes are useless on an expedition, and would do the same as they did at Taza—namely, when the Sultan ordered them to advance, they would all sit down and refuse to move.

The late Sultan would have fired on them and chanced the consequences, and Mulai Abdel Azziz should have done the same.

No. 202.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received June* 11.)

Sir, *Admiralty, June* 11, 1904.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a Report, dated the 4th June, from the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station relative to the state of affairs at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 202.

Admiral Sir C. Domvile to Admiralty.

Sir, *"Bulwark" at Gibraltar, June* 4, 1904.

WITH reference to Admiralty telegram of the 28th ultimo and my reply thereto of the 31st idem, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that on my arrival at Gibraltar on the latter date I heard from our Minister at Tangier that there was a considerable amount of anxiety amongst the European residents there owing to the recent capture of Mr. Perdicaris (United States' subject) and Mr. Varley (British subject) by a Moorish band under a well-known Chief, named Reissouli, who carried them off to a place about 20 miles inland, where they appear to be fairly well treated, and are permitted to obtain provisions from Tangier. These gentlemen were carried off from Mr. Perdicaris' country house about 3 miles outside that place. They were surrounded at night whilst sitting in the drawing-room after dinner. Hearing a noise they ran to the kitchen, unfortunately without their arms, and were instantly seized and bound. The servants all ran away except one Spaniard, who was wounded. Apparently the ladies were not molested, only getting a severe fright.

2. I inclose a copy of the terms demanded by Reissouli for the release of his captives, which the Minister informs me are his irreducible minimum; but it will be seen that they are absolutely inadmissible. What the result will be it is very hard to say.

3. Another feature of the case, and, perhaps, the worst one, is the present behaviour of the tribes in the neighbourhood of Tangier, who have held several meetings to consider what they should do and why they should not carry off two or three Europeans on their own account, as it appears to be such a profitable transaction. I am particularly anxious about our Legation, which is just outside the town on a small hill, and there appears to be not the slightest reason why they should not attempt the same thing here, as the Moorish soldiers close the town gates every night and all remain inside.

4. It appears to me to be for the consideration of His Majesty's Government whether Legation Guards should not be established, during this unsettled state of affairs, in the

neighbourhood of Tangier, as I believe the Moors have no power to protect them in any way. It would be a terrible thing for the prestige of the Europeans if a Legation was raided and a Minister carried off.

5. There are seven United States' ships now at Tangier under Rear-Admiral Chadwick in the "Brooklyn." The other ships are small and could not furnish large landing parties. I propose to leave the "Prince of Wales" at Gibraltar in any case; but if things get worse I might remain there myself for a few days. I have seen our Minister at Tangier, and am in constant communication with him by destroyer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) COMPTON DOMVILE,
Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

No. 203.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received June 11.)

Sir,

Admiralty, June 11, 1904.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 11th instant, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station relative to the "Prince of Wales" leaving Tangier for Gibraltar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 203.

Admiralty to Admiral Sir C. Domvile.

(Telegraphic.)

Admiralty, June 11, 1904.

FOREIGN OFFICE have no objection to "Prince of Wales" proceeding to Gibraltar from Tangier, but she must be kept in readiness to return at short notice.

No. 204.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 11, 1904.

I APPROVE proposal in your telegram No. 63 of 10th June. Necessary instructions are being sent to Gibraltar by Admiralty.

No. 205.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord,

Madrid, June 9, 1904.

THE Duke of Almodovar, formerly Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Liberal Government, spoke yesterday in Congress, asking why the understanding with France respecting the Empire of Morocco, a conglomeration of tribes united solely by the bond of religion, was set on one side by the Conservative Government.

He warmly praised the action of M. Leon y Castillo during the negotiations of 1902 with France, who was aware of the danger of France seeking to compensate for the failure in coming to an understanding with Spain respecting Morocco by entering into agreement with England.

The result of the negotiations of the Liberal party in 1902 is expressed in the note which he (the Duke of Almodovar) addressed in September of that year to the Spanish

Ambassador in Paris, in which he said that, being absolutely partisan of peace and of a pacific mission, he considered it inexcusable to concert with another Power to prevent possible risks.

To this the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. San Pedro, answered that the Government, who had not initiated the debate, was not free, as the negotiations were still continuing, to express its views, which irresponsible private members were able to do; but the Government was enlightened by the expression of the opinions of those members.

There had been great exaggerations here in the criticism of the Anglo-French understanding—we were supposed to have been driven out of Morocco, and in any case to be in a worse condition than before.

It is the contrary, and this is proved by the fact that England had begged France to recognize the rights of Spain in Morocco and by the speech of the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons.

We expect to learn from the discussion now begun whether we are authorized in negotiating, but we do not intend to shield ourselves by what is said here in order to cover our responsibility. We are strengthened by your assent, and we shall negotiate with more confidence than counting only on our own force.

The Duke of Almodovar stated that in November 1903 there was already talk of an Anglo-French Agreement without taking count of Spain; whereas in April 1904—a few months later—the two nations said that the rights of Spain would be respected.

The Minister spoke of the necessity of an understanding with France and the contradictions in the speeches of the Opposition speakers, MM. Villanueva and Romanones.

There may be discussion as to the objects of the arrangement to be come to with France, but we must declare that Spain will maintain the political integrity of Morocco and that we are partisans of the *status quo*, improving the state of the country from humane considerations.

The chief interest in Morocco is not the dominion over it, or zones of extension, but the commercial development.

The Minister ended by saying that at a proper time the conduct of the Government may be judged as regards the arrangement with France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 206.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord,

Madrid, June 11, 1904.

I asked Señor San Pedro yesterday how the negotiations with France about Morocco were going on.

He answered that when he last saw me he had hoped they would have been over by now, but though the territorial questions had been settled, the commercial questions, to which he attributed even greater importance, entailed more delay than he had expected.

M. Delcassé, though giving no direct negative, appeared to find difficulty in complying at once with the requests of the Spanish Government.

I gathered from his Excellency's language—though he gave me no detailed information—that he was desirous of obtaining more security for the future of Spanish trade with Morocco than the thirty years' period during which the *status quo* will continue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. H. EGERTON.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 207.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 14, 1904.*

WITH reference to the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

A letter from the Wazzan Shereef has been shown me, in which he desires I should be informed of the following further demands which the captor is making:—

(1.) That, as long as he and his tribe behave well, they should not be molested hereafter by the Moorish Government, and that Mr. Gummeré and I should give a written guarantee to this effect.

(2.) That we should also guarantee the detention of the Sheikhs in prison, and that they must be arrested at once. The Shereef says, in another letter, that the guarantee required is that, before a month elapses, the arrest and imprisonment of the Sheikhs must have been effected. Both letters are dated Sunday last, and I do not know which is the earlier.

We shall have to refuse these guarantees, but I think it would be well to await Reissouli's replies to Sultan's Deputy here, who is the only responsible negotiator, in order to see whether above guarantees are formally demanded by captor. It is possible, however, that without informing the Deputy he may endeavour to obtain them through the Shereef.

No. 208.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 14, 1904.*

I HAVE to thank your Lordship for telegram No. 37 of to-day regarding the safety of the Legation.

The Legation is, I really think, one of the safest houses in Tangier, but as to some of the rather outlying houses, where owners still reside, I am anxious; and I shall be relieved when efficient night patrols and a proper police force are established here.

No. 209.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 14.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 14, 1904.*

WITH reference to Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

A reply from captor to Sultan's Deputy here has been received. The liberation of some more prisoners, and a request that four more districts should be handed over to him, are now requested by Reissouli. The arrest of Sheikhs is also insisted on.

Sultan's Deputy intends granting the further demands mentioned above.

Captor informed Mr. Perdicaris that a guarantee as to immunity from future molestation from the Moorish Government would be required from the United States' Consul-General and myself, as he had already informed the Shereef of Wazzan; but nothing was mentioned regarding guarantee for imprisonment of Sheikhs to former.

In his letter to Ci Hadj Mohammed Torres, Reissouli does not refer to guarantees. On this point, however, it is probable he will approach us through other channels than the Moorish authorities.

No. 210.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 14, 1904.*

ARE Legation and its inmates perfectly safe? Legation might be furnished with a guard if any doubt as to safety.

No. 211.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 15, 1904.*

ADMIRAL CHADWICK has asked me if I could not recall British man-of-war here to show we are working in accord for one common object. He spoke seriously as to the necessity of such a step in present juncture. In present circumstances I think there is much force in the remarks of the Admiral, especially as trouble may be caused when the guarantees to Reissouli are refused. If your Lordship concurs, I would propose, therefore, to request return of His Majesty's ship "Prince of Wales" at the end of this week.

No. 212.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 15, 1904.*

WITH reference to the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

In his reply to Reissouli Ci Mohammed Torres states that he has written to the Sultan to appoint Reissouli Governor over the four districts, and promises, within twenty days, confirmation of appointment.

A province roughly running from close neighbourhood of Tangier to near Laraiche, will thus be brought under the control of Reissouli.

One of the Sheikhs, who being no longer in office was residing here, has been imprisoned to-day together with his two brothers, by Ci Mohammed Torres, who has informed Reissouli in above-mentioned letter that he is unable to arrest the other Sheikhs, but that Reissouli himself may do so. The money, he adds, will be paid and prisoners released when captives are liberated, but not before.

No. 213.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June 15, 1904.*

I APPROVE the proposal in your telegram No. 67 to recall British war-ship to Tangier.

No. 214.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 16).

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Madrid, June 12, 1904.*

IN the Senate yesterday there was a short debate on the Morocco question, initiated by Señor Groizard of the Liberal party alluding to the supposed Treaty between France and Spain in 1902.

He was answered by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who assured him that there was no Treaty of the kind—there had been mere negotiations on the part of the Liberal Government; but in the main even Señor Sagasta, as well as Señor Silvela and Señor Maura, maintained the same attitude.

The Treaty as published by the "Globo" was purely imaginary.

Señor Abarzuza confirmed this, and said Señor Silvela had entered into no secret negotiations; the policy of his Government was the *status quo* in Morocco.

When the "Times" and the "Diplomatic Review" alluded to a Treaty of the kind, he at the time denied the truth of the statement here, as did M. Delcassé in the French Chamber.

Even the negotiations of the Duke of Almodóvar cannot be said to have had a real being, as they were born without conditions of life, and, as Señor Maura well said, wanted what was necessary for existence, and the Duke was ill-advised in alluding to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 215.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 16.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 16, 1904.

THIS morning some 300 troops arrived here unexpectedly by sea from Casablanca, seventy of their number being cavalry. These troops are to be supplemented by a further detachment of 200. Position of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley will be rendered more difficult by this movement, which, at present juncture, is most unfortunate. Three weeks ago I had procured detention at Fez of a force which was proceeding to this neighbourhood; but the Moorish Government, I presume, imagined the captives would be free by now, and that, without incurring risk, they could move troops. It is to be regretted that they did not, before sending the troops, make inquiries as to captives.

A letter is being sent to Casablanca by Sultan's Deputy here to endeavour to stop the departure of the second batch of troops from that port.

No. 216.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 17.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 17, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 39 of to-day. My request, made some time ago, that no movement of troops should take place until Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley had been liberated, has been renewed to-day to Fez, and I have at the same time pointed out the imprudence of yesterday's surprise.

I have to inform your Lordship, confidentially, that it was, I fear, due to the very inopportune pressure put on the Moorish Government by the French Legation to reinforce the garrison here, with a view of giving security to Europeans. The soldiers who have arrived are rather a danger than a protection.

No. 217.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 17, 1904.

UNTIMELY action on part of Moorish Government which could endanger captives should be prevented by all the means at your disposal.

No. 218.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 84.)
Tangier, June 9, 1904.

My Lord,

HADJ MOHAMMED TORRES, the Sultan's Deputy, called upon me yesterday morning and handed to me a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, of which I have the honour to inclose translation. His Excellency further gave me a Memorandum in Arabic, summarizing the orders he had received from the Sultan in regard to the demands made by Reissouli. I beg leave to inclose a translation of that document.

Madj Mohammed Torres inquired of me what suggestions I had to make with respect to the mode in which these orders could be best put into execution. I told his Excellency that I had no suggestions to make, as I wished him clearly to understand that the mode of securing the liberation of the captives was a matter appertaining exclusively to the Moorish authorities; and all that I demanded was the restoration to liberty of my compatriot, while I held the Moorish Government responsible for any harm which might happen to him.

Hadj Mohammed Torres said that he understood this, and that he was sure no injury would be caused to either of the captives. He proceeded to remark that when it was known that the demands of Reissouli had been conceded, and when the several measures on which he had insisted were put into execution, complete anarchy would reign throughout this neighbourhood. The only force which had hitherto exercised any restraint on the tribes would be disbanded, while loyal tribes would be driven into rebellion by the treatment to which the Government were compelled to submit their Sheikhs. The new Governor of Tangiers was an old and feeble man, perfectly incompetent for the post, and he trusted that the appointed was merely temporary.

I inquired of Hadj Mohammed Torres whether the Tetuan relatives of Reissouli were men of importance, and whether they exercised any influence over that individual. His Excellency replied in the negative to both questions, and evidently considered that their mission would be a fruitless one. His own Kalifa or Deputy, who is also his son, would proceed as soon as possible to visit Reissouli, and endeavour to induce the latter to modify his demands, but he doubted much if the results would be satisfactory; and he also questioned if Reissouli would be satisfied with all the replies of the Sultan. Hadj Mohammed Torres observed that many of the prisoners, whose release Reissouli requested, were dangerous characters, and, once at liberty, would resume unchecked their former habits of rebellion and lawlessness. The question of the arrest of the Sheikhs was a most difficult problem. To effect it by force was impossible, as there was no force at the disposal of the authorities; to endeavour by promises to beguile the Sheikhs to submit to a fictitious imprisonment was not likely to be attended with success. While, even admitting that this stratagem was adopted, Reissouli would, were the Sheikhs liberated after the release of the captives, immediately lay hands on some Europeans and hold them as hostages for a violation of engagements on the part of the Moorish Government.

His Excellency was much depressed and agitated over the present situation, and was evidently extremely anxious as to the immediate future. In this anxiety I fully agree with him, and to my mind it is perfectly clear that, unless some measures are promptly adopted for insuring, as far as possible, some permanent security to Europeans, further outrages will most probably occur. Men-of-war, undoubtedly, afford a certain protection, and I am of opinion that their presence has had a salutary effect, but they cannot be retained here beyond a limited time. Other steps should be taken, and it was with this view that I ventured to suggest that the French Government should be approached on the subject.

I communicated to my French colleague the substance of what I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday on the question, which I consider an urgent one, and I understood him to concur with my views, and he was, I think, gratified that I had mentioned the matter to your Lordship.

I beg leave to transmit copy of the note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in reply to his communication to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 218.

Sid-ben-Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

I RECEIVED your letter concerning the act committed by the bandit Reissouli in seizing the gentlemen Mr. Perdicaris, an American, and Mr. Varley, an Englishman, and of which you instructed your Vice-Consul here to inform this Makhzen. I note what you stated and impressed upon us. I informed His Shereefian Majesty thereof, and he has instructed me to reply to you that when he heard of the information given by the Vice-Consul it affected him greatly, more than ever before, and he issued the

necessary Shereefian orders at once, as you will have heard from the Deputy, Cid Mohammed Torres; and when Cid Mohammed Torres sent information of the steps you had taken to obtain the release of the captives, and that their release depended upon the granting of the demands mentioned, His Shereefian Majesty considered the general evils which would arise from these demands, of which you are aware, and which are not necessary to state. As also he (compliments) considered what would arise from delay in releasing the captives, he (compliments) put first the consent to these demands, and took upon himself the great evils from a desire to hasten the release of the captives and restore tranquillity to both the exalted nations, and give happiness to the people of both countries, and he has now issued his Shereefian orders to the Deputy, Cid Mohammed Torres, to give effect to all of the said demands that are necessary in the manner which may be decided upon in consultation with you and the Representative of the United States. His Majesty awaits eagerly the news of the release of the captives, which is His Majesty's most important object before everything, and I trust that the good news will arrive shortly, by the power of God. It is not hidden from your Excellency, the friendly, what evil will result from the American warships, the news of whose arrival in Tangier waters has been received, which will cause increased alarm among the natives and others, and the evils be thereby be made greater and the foreign friendly Representatives and their nationals resident in this country be alarmed, and possibly it may have the effect of increasing the difficulty attending the release of the captives. You are friends His Majesty does not doubt, in removing everything which will increase the evils, and more so as you have seen what His Majesty has done in consenting to the demands, each one of which holds such present and future harms as it is not necessary to state. His Shereefian Majesty therefore trusts that you will do your utmost for the return of the said vessels, so that peace and tranquillity may be complete in that district and elsewhere in this happy kingdom. And immediately on the release of the captives you will see the strong measures that have been prepared by His Shereefian Majesty for the whole of the district where there are residents inside and outside Tangier and all the roads, and that reliable persons have been appointed for its chief and officers in a manner in which there will be no negligence either by night or by day, by the power of God.

May you rest.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

18 *Rabia I*, 1322 (*June* 3, 1904).

Inclosure 2 in No. 218.

Memorandum communicated by Torres as to replies of Moorish Government to Reissouli's demands, June 8, 1904.

(Translation.)

TORRES' Khalifa to collect the Shereefian relatives of Reissouli from Tetuan; and in company with them to visit the latter in order to induce him to enter the path of reason; and to use their utmost endeavours in regard to the money demanded, and to pay whatever is arranged.

2. The Governor of Tangier to be removed, and to take his departure for Fez: Hadj Hafid Barrada to be appointed Governor in his place.

3. The villages of Zinnats and Briesh to be handed over to Reissouli.

4. As to the prisoners whose release has been requested: people who were living on the farms of Reissouli and a relative of his to be released. The release of the others to be promised and to take effect as soon as their tribes are tranquil.

5. Reissouli's request as to the arrest of the Sheikhs of Wad Ras and of Beni M'saur, and of their brethren will be attended to; and the above will be arrested as soon as it is possible to lay hands upon them. If it prooves difficult to induce Reissouli to accept the above, the Sheikhs are to be requested to come to Tangier under "Aman" (guarantee of personal security) and they are to be informed of the reward they will receive for consenting to remain, as if under arrest, in a place to be designated in the citadel; and when the captives are free they will be liberated and allowed to go their way.

6. The soldiers in the Government force who belong to Tangier will be recalled to that town; those who belong to the Gharb district to be sent to their homes; and the remainder, with the Commander of the force, to be sent to Oojdah by sea.

Inclosure 3 in No. 218.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sid-ben-Sliman.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

Tangier, June 8, 1904.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the note which your Excellency was good enough to address to me on the 3rd June, 1904, in which you informed me of the concern with which His Majesty heard of the outrage committed upon my compatriot, Mr. Varley, and of the measures which the Moorish Government have authorized Hadj Mohammed Torres to take with a view of procuring the release of the captives.

I did not doubt, knowing the goodwill and friendly feelings of His Majesty towards my country, that His Majesty would be much pained at the recent deplorable event, and would be anxious to express his solicitude and regret.

Your Excellency further states that Hadj Mohammed Torres has been instructed to consult with the United States' Representative and myself as to the manner in which effect should be given to the orders he has received. I would desire to point out that the steps which the Moorish Government may take to procure the liberation of the captives are matters with which they alone can deal, and with which it would not be proper for me to interfere. I can but repeat to your Excellency that I look to the Moorish Government, whom my Government hold responsible for the safety of my compatriot, to restore him unharmed to his family with the least possible delay.

In your Excellency's note you allude to the presence of American men-of-war in Tangier Bay; and I would suggest that any observations on this subject should be addressed to the United States' Representative. I may take this opportunity to inform your Excellency that, owing to the inability of the local authorities to provide adequate means of protection to British subjects, a British man-of-war has arrived here for the purpose of affording some security to my compatriots who reside in this town. In the present circumstances this step is a natural and justifiable one. I am glad to observe from the concluding words of your Excellency's note, that the Moorish Government intend, when the captives are liberated, to take measures for insuring the safety of foreign subjects in these districts, and for re-establishing order and tranquillity. It is eminently desirable that the present deplorable state of affairs should be remedied as soon as possible.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 219.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 86.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 11, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, giving me some interesting particulars as to the state of affairs in his district and of the condition of the country between Tangier and Fez. Mr. MacLeod informs me that he will shortly send me a further report as to the situation in Fez itself. I would beg leave to draw your Lordship's attention to the paucity of numbers and inefficiency of the forces at the disposal of the Sultan in the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Vice-Consul MacLeod to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 25.)

Sir,

Fez, June 6, 1904.

WHEN I was passing through Tangier recently, on return from leave of absence, you desired me to furnish a report upon the condition of the country through which I would journey to Fez, and the situation here generally which I should find.

I therefore beg to submit the following résumé of the present position, so far as I have been able to ascertain it since arriving here three weeks ago :—

Everywhere on the journey I found the most marked discontent with the Government, a common enough circumstance, but, what is unusual in those districts, mingled with the most derisive and outspoken contempt for all law and authority. About 16 miles south of Tangier, two villages recently burnt by Reissouli and his supporters were to be seen. In the Gharbia district I heard numerous stories of his raids, abductions of men and women villagers, killing their defenders, and so on; for none of which, apparently, had the Government procured the complainants redress.

At El Kesar el Kebir there were reports and rumours current of almost daily robberies of cattle, &c., raiding of outlying farms, gardens, and the like.

During the winter and spring fighting had been going on, I was informed, between the Gharb and Beni Hassan provinces, and their differences being still unavenged, the Gharb people had almost all refrained from ploughing, for fear of losing their crops subsequently, when the Beni Hassan would return.

As the Gharb is one of the richest grain-growing parts of the country, the want of their crops cannot fail to be markedly felt, in the interior cities especially, before long.

As one proceeded inland, supplies, entirely contrary to what usually obtains, became daily scarcer and dearer, and this although unusually abundant rains had fallen, and vegetation was rich everywhere, and a good harvest in prospect.

The poorest of the tribespeople were, we found, living chiefly on the growing crops of beans, and on milk, which latter, fortunately, was fairly plentiful owing to the rich pasturage produced by the unusually heavy rains of the winter and spring.

As these supplies fall off month by month with the increasing heat, the tribespeople can scarcely fail to begin to suffer more acutely, for the continuance of high (practically famine) prices in the interior towns will tend to keep their grain also at prices entirely beyond the means of the poorest classes, and in the country there is little or no increase of employment or raising of wages to counteract the dearth. It is scarcely to be wondered at, therefore, that the tribespeople are in ill-humour, and may become more and more contemptuous of the Government and inclined to disorder.

The causes of this state of things have been, in the opinion of every disinterested observer whom I met—

1. The exhaustion of the Government reserve stores, and private owners' stores of wheat and barley during the past two years, in consequence of the largely increased human and animal population at Fez, incidental to the various campaigns undertaken by the Government.

2. The large quantities of Government material transported from the coast, and the frequent insecurity of the roads making transport rates so high, that to bring wheat and barley from, say, Dar-al-Baida or elsewhere on the coast where it was plentiful, was, and is still, impossible, except at a heavy loss.

3. The lavish expenditure by the Government in purchase of supplies and pay to levies of tribesmen and soldiers for these campaigns. A large proportion of this money, it should be noted, has gone to pastoral tribes like the Zemmur, who merely hoard it, or purchase rifles and ammunition.

For the rest, however, it is generally allowed that trade, *i.e.*, European wares particularly, has benefited by the late unprecedented expenditure of the Government.

This prolonged extreme dearth has in its turn had a most serious effect on the army, and by consequence on the Government's power even to punish acts of lawlessness, not to mention quelling political insurrections.

There is no army commissariat as regards feeding the troops, the men, whether in barracks or on campaign, being simply paid so much a day, and that often very irregularly, and find themselves in food. Either of two things then happens, when dearth occurs. If the rate of pay remains low, it is insufficient, and the men desert in large numbers; if the pay be increased to a sufficiency, many of these men half starve themselves, save their money for a time, and then desert (though in smaller numbers than when the pay is low) to their homes.

Of late the former has been occurring, and to such an extent that, as shown at the recent "Mulud" festival parades, the total troops here remaining to the Sultan were seen to be not more than 2,500 at the very most, whereas there should have been 6,000 to 7,000, or so.

Of the said 2,500 about half were visibly either mere boys or riffraff, indeed a good many were sheer outsiders hired for a small sum to parade in absent men's places. Of the remainder (*i.e.*, say 1,250), some 500 were Major Ogilvy's mounted infantry (of

whom 400 were fairly good and the rest boy recruits), and about 400, at the most, artillerymen instructed by the French Military Mission.

This computation was made before the small expeditionary force for Tangier province (now countermanded) was made up. It is composed mostly of Major Ogilvy's men—to such an extent that he states that on its departure he will be left with only 80 to 100 boy recruits.

The Government, it is well known, have not at present money wherewith to pay levies of irregular tribesmen, and so have at Fez only these 2,500 "regulars" available for punitive purposes.

To what extent punitive expeditions, and in what places punishment is required, may be seen from the map inclosed herewith, which roughly shows also—(*a*) the positions of troops elsewhere than at Fez; (*b*) the areas (Taza, for instance) which have both nominally and practically thrown off the Sultan's authority; and (*c*) the areas which are or are not effectively under Government control in normal times, as tested by their paying or not paying taxes.

As regards the southern provinces, my information is very slight. I have therefore marked on the map only those disturbances of which I happen to have heard; and even those I give with all reserve, and so there are perhaps others known to you which should be added to them.

The following is a list of the disaffected or disturbed districts :—

Taza and north-east provinces, under the Pretender.

Tangier provinces (Beni Arros), under Reissouli's influence.

Ait Yusi Kaïd killed; two maxims and quantity of rifles captured.

Gharb *versus* Beni Hassan inter-tribal raidings during winter and spring. Cessation of agriculture.

Shawia (Settat) revolt against Kaïd.

Abda, first attempt to collect new taxes, and killing of Kaïd's Secretary, who read the edict regarding it.

Haha, inter-tribal fighting with M'toga.

Demnat, killing of Kaïd, and looting of his property.

In regard to the Pretender and the situation at Taza, things there locally appear to be very much as they were six months ago. He has made no attempt to extend his rule to further tribes, and all belief in his magical powers either inside or outside Taza district seems extinct. Though not nearly in the same proportion, the Taza tribes have been affected by the general dearth, and continue anxious to ensure the ensuing harvest.

Some five or six septs of Sinhaja and Beni Oulid sent deputations to the Sultan at the recent feast, were pardoned and well received, and promised to attack Branes and Dsul whenever called upon. It is generally believed, however, that their object was merely to forestall an expedition, which (quite wrongly) they imagined the Government meant to send against Taza about harvest time.

In Oojdah district, the situation does not seem to have changed much, if at all, during the last six months. I have had no minute details of events there.

In Figuig region I am told there is general quietness and contentment. The hostages given after the bombardment of Figuig have been released and sent home. The Moorish Kaïd at Figuig recently succeeded in "reconciling" the Beni Guil and the French authorities, the former agreeing to turn out Bu Amama from their lands, which they have done, and he is now said to be installed close to Debdou, and giving guarantees to refrain from raiding convoys and the like in future, and being now allowed to frequent the Figuig market, as have also practically all the Douimenia and Ulad Jerir.

The French Sahara railway has now been extended from Jnan Dar, viâ Sidi Sliman in Beni Unif, Miriris, and hills of Beni Zirig, to near Oukada, whence it is expected to be extended to Bechar, and thence direct to Igli.

A daily market has been established by the French at Sidi Sliman in Beni Unif, and is freely resorted to by the Douimenia, Hamian, Ulad Jerir, and Beni Guil people.

Tafilelt people have also begun to frequent markets in the Ulad Jerir and Doumenia districts, but I am told that so far no British wares for Tafilelt have been sent thither viâ Algeria instead of through Fez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

No. 220.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 18.)

(No. 87.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 11, 1904.

THE French Minister informs me that the negotiations for a loan to the Moorish Government are practically concluded, and that only one or two small technical details are awaiting settlement. The loan is for 50,000,000 fr., and I am informed that after repayment of the three existing loans, and the discharge of all the other obligations of the Moorish Government, there will remain, it is estimated, a sum of about 12,000,000 fr. at the disposal of the Sultan. Assuming that these data are correct, and I have no means of controlling them, the financial situation can only be considered as temporarily alleviated, and if an army is to be organized and other urgent and necessary measures taken in hand, it is clear that further financial assistance will have to be provided.

The country from north to south is in turmoil, more or less acute, and there is no prospect for some time to come of it being possible to collect any internal taxes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 221.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 19.)

(No. 71.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 19, 1904.

ARRANGEMENTS for the release of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley on Tuesday next have now been made, when the tribesmen, who are at present prisoners in Tangier, will be liberated and 11,000*l.* will be handed over to Reissouli in exchange.

The refusal to grant guarantees has much annoyed captor. He may liberate captives, but until it is accomplished I would not guarantee his doing so. That he will remain satisfied without some security as to future I much doubt, and with a large sum of money in his possession and his chief condition still unfulfilled he will be a constant danger to all Europeans.

No. 222.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 20.)

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 20, 1904.

I AM informed confidentially by M. Saint-René Taillandier that he expects very shortly to be in a position to lay before the Moorish Government certain measures which he thinks will be quite adequate for the preservation of order and the security of Europeans here.

No. 223.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 21.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, June* 21, 1904.

FRANCE and Spain in Morocco.

French Minister of Foreign Affairs has admitted, so the Spanish Ambassador informs me, that the line of coast neutralized in Morocco in accordance with the Anglo-French Agreement, extends in a westerly direction as far as the River Sebou. But unless Spain gives up her claim to the eastern portion between the Algerian frontier and Melilla, M. Delcassé will not consent to place under Spanish influence the portion between Laraiche and the mouth of the Sebou.

No. 226*.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 71.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 22, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 84 of the 9th instant, reporting your interview with Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Deputy, on the previous day, when his Excellency handed to you a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to the measures taken by the Moorish Government to obtain the release of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

I approve the terms of the reply which you addressed to Ben Sliman.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANDSDOWNE.

The extent of the hinterland in the Sus district is also a matter of dispute, and Marquis del Muni thinks that there must still be some delay before a definite settlement is arrived at, as he must refer this question to Madrid.

His Excellency's irritation is no less than usual.

No. 224.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 22.)

(No. 73.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 22, 1904.

SOME difficulties which arose at the last moment regarding the liberation of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley have, I understand, been overcome, and I have good hopes that the release of captives may be effected to-morrow.

Shall I address a note to the Moorish Government demanding that all those implicated in the outrage on and detention of a British subject should be punished?

I think His Majesty's ship "Prince of Wales" could return to Gibraltar on the release of captives, and may I take my leave then?

No. 225.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 40.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 22, 1904.

WITH referemce to your telegram No. 73 of to-day. You should make a formal protest to the Minister for Foreign Affairs against the situation of affairs in Morocco which has permitted the capture and carrying off of a British subject. You should add that we shall expect measures to be taken by the Moorish Government in order that such outrages shall not occur again.

No objection to your going on leave of absence, nor to departure of ship of war as soon as captives have been set free.

No. 226.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 81.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, June* 22, 1904.

THE Spanish Ambassador told me to-day that he had not lately received any news as to the progress of the negotiations proceeding at Paris with regard to the recognition of Spanish interests in Morocco.

His Excellency told me that a rumour had reached the Spanish Government that in consequence of the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley, an arrangement had been made between Great Britain and France under which the latter Power was to be given special opportunities of dealing with the district in which these troubles had occurred. I told his Excellency that there was no foundation whatever for the story.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 227.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 23.)

(No. 85. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, June* 20, 1904.

BOTH from Señor San Pedro and M. Cambon I learn that the Franco-Spanish negotiations respecting Morocco are being delayed, and both sides appear to regret the delay.

I have not pressed for particulars—Señor San Pedro mentioned vaguely that he wished for commercial advantages for Spain, the French Ambassador that for the convenience of his Government the details of the Arrangement should not immediately

be published—as the delay makes what was merely a corollary of the so justly popular Anglo-French Treaty into a separate French and Spanish Treaty, and M. Étienne and the Colonial party in France become more formidable as the negotiations with Spain are protracted.

M. Cambon tells me that he has warned Señor San Pedro of the danger of delay, and used every possible argument in vain.

The reason for wishing the details of the Agreement to be kept confidential at present to the Governments interested and that of His Britannic Majesty, is that the Moors might be excited by the publication, and now was especially a moment, owing to the Perdicaris incident, when any fermentation was undesirable.

I asked him whether he had argued the matter with Señor Maura, who was a man apparently of sense and decision, but he answered that Señor Maura seemed to follow Señor San Pedro's lead, and Señor San Pedro is essentially a lawyer in his love of minute detail, in which he risks to lose the main points.

I suggested that possibly when the Chambers are closed in a fortnight or three weeks time, the Spanish Ministry will be less difficult. This I am not certain of, but in any case I shall venture to urge the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs that unnecessary delay is dangerous.

The French Ambassador did not seem to think there was any Government encouraging the delay on the part of the Spanish Foreign Office—there might be busy bodies amongst the Representatives here—but he appeared to agree with me that there was no serious ground to attribute influence to them in this question.

M. Cambon is going to-day to Paris for a few days, and will meet his brother there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 228.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 23, 1904.*

WITH reference to the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

I have to report to your Lordship that Muley Hamed, the Shereef of Wazzan, left Tangier this morning with the money and prisoners in order to effect the exchange. Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley are expected here this evening.

The Moorish Government have granted another district to Reissouli, which he demanded in addition to those already conceded him. As guarantees have been refused, I think he wishes to acquire such a strong position that he could not be seized by the Moorish Government. Should he contrive to secure the adhesion of all the tribes, who would come under his jurisdiction, the Government would find him a formidable adversary. Whether the tribes would accept him as their Governor, is, however, open to doubt.

No. 229.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, June 22, 1904.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 29, Confidential, of to-day's date.

I am surprised at the language used by the Spanish Ambassador in regard to the Franco-Spanish negotiations.

Until I see Señor San Pedro on Friday I prefer to assume that, as regards the Algerian frontier, the territorial question is settled.

No. 230.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 86. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, June 21, 1904.*

I SHOULD correct in my despatch of yesterday the statement that M. Cambon, the French Ambassador here, was leaving for Paris in the evening.

It appears that at the last moment he received a telegram from his Government desiring him, under the present circumstances of the negotiations with Spain, to remain at his post. This, I trust, is a sign that M. Delcassé entertains hopes of their conclusion shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDM. H. EGERTON.

No. 231.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, June 24, 1904.*

NEGOTIATIONS between Spain and France.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 26, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs has again repeated to me that a settlement of the territorial questions has been arrived at. His Excellency hopes that the details will be speedily agreed to.

No. 232.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 379. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, June 24, 1904.*

I ASKED M. Delcassé the day before yesterday what progress he was making with the Spanish Ambassador in the negotiation for a Franco-Spanish arrangement about Morocco; and his Excellency made me his usual answer, namely, that everything was settled in principle, and that all that remained was the "rédaction" of the terms of the Convention.

It never seems to occur to M. Delcassé that M. Leon y Castillo may come to me, and give me his own very different report of the manner in which the negotiation proceeds. As I informed your Lordship by my telegram No. 58 of the 21st instant, the Spanish Ambassador declares that M. Delcassé is still endeavouring to minimise as much as possible the territorial concessions to be made to Spain. M. Leon y Castillo told me, when he called the other day, that it was understood that His Majesty's Government, in specifying the extent of coast which should not fall into the French sphere of influence, had stipulated that it should extend in a westerly direction to the mouth of the river Sebou; with the evident intention that the whole extent thus excepted should be recognized as belonging to the sphere of Spanish influence, M. Delcassé, however, has given M. Leon y Castillo to understand that as he has agreed on the part of France to leave to Spain the coast line east of Melilla up to the Algerian frontier, the French Government cannot think of letting Spain claim the coast of the river Sebou. If Spain wants that bit she must give up the coast east of Melilla, which would mean the loss of the Zafarin Islands. M. Delcassé is also showing himself very niggardly in the extent of the hinterland which he will consent to assign to Spain.

Upon these points M. Leon y Castillo wanted to know whether he could not appeal to England, on the idea that your Lordship had made stipulations of a kind to support the Spanish claims. I said to him, however, that your Lordship had done

nothing of the sort; but had all along declared that it would be the business of France and Spain respectively to make their own Agreement.

M. Leon y Castillo was as bitter as usual at what he calls "the dishonesty" of M. Delcassé; and said that he must ask for fresh instructions from Madrid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 233.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June 25, 1904.*

MESSRS. PERDICARIS and Varley reached Tangier last night. I leave to-day for England.

No. 234.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 14, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 76 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I yesterday received a telegram from Lord Cromer conveying the thanks of Ci Menebhi for the letter which I had written to him, and stating that the latter would follow the advice I had given him to co-operate with the French in their efforts to restore tranquillity in, and improve the administration of, this country. Ci Menebhi added that he proposed to leave Egypt on the 17th instant and proceed to Paris, where he intended to have interviews with members of the French Government.

I spoke to the French Minister yesterday evening in regard to Ci Menebhi, and mentioned that the latter had been a little anxious lest the new situation created by the Anglo-French Declaration might place him in an invidious position. My French colleague assured me that Ci Menebhi need not be under any apprehension that there was the slightest animus against him on the part of the French authorities; on the contrary, he himself had considerable admiration for Ci Menebhi's energy and determination, and was of opinion that he was one of the ablest men in Morocco. He could render most valuable services to this country, and he trusted that he would return here. I said that Ci Menebhi proposed to visit Paris, and it would be a kindly act if the way could be smoothed for his making the acquaintance of the leading members of the Government. My French colleague said that he would gladly do this, and added that he was already aware of Menebhi's intention, and that the latter could rely on a friendly reception.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 235.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 15, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida reporting on the condition of affairs in his Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 67.)
Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, June 13, 1904.*

THE reports I have recently received from my correspondents convey the information that at the moment there are no disturbances throughout this Consular district, and that all the people are busy over harvest operations.

On the other hand, the authorities in Marrakesh and elsewhere appear to believe that there will be serious risings and intertribal warfare directly after the harvest is gathered and disposed of. I am of the same opinion.

Some of the missionaries in Marrakesh have consulted me as to the advisability of withdrawing their families from the interior, and I have informed them privately that were I in their place I should think it prudent to do so. It would be wiser to take this step during the present period of tranquillity than later.

Well-to-do country Moors are themselves adopting similar precautions, and are bringing their valuables and money to be taken care of by merchants living in the coast towns.

The excitement noticeable when the conclusion of the Anglo-French Agreement first became known has subsided to a great extent, anyhow in the towns, as the Moors believe that there will be no change in the system of Government, and that the Makhzen remains independent.

There is considerable talk about the capture of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley. My own opinion is that if the tribes near Tangier are severely punished it will have a salutary effect throughout the country.

On the other hand, if they escape chastisement, Europeans in the south as well as in the north will not for a long time enjoy security from molestation.

Oomana and Adool have arrived at the house of Kaid Aisa-ben Omar, the Governor of Abda, for the purpose of collecting taxes from the Houz tribes. Their success will depend more on their tact than on the power of the Government to enforce its will.

The people are unusually well off, but officials and others are sceptical about the success of any present attempts to collect taxes.

It will perhaps interest you to hear that the pilgrims returning from Mecca, and an unusual number made the pilgrimage this year, speak enthusiastically of the condition of the Mahommedan inhabitants of Egypt.

It is reported that the endeavours to raise a new "harka" in the south for service near the Sultan are not meeting with much success. Many deserters from the army in Fez are passing through Rabat. They explain that provisions, and living generally, are so dear in the city that they were starving.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. MACLEAN.

No. 236.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 90.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June 15, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter which Reissouli has addressed to Hadj Mohammed Torres, relative to the concessions which the Sultan has granted with the view of obtaining the release of the captives.

The "Dahir" is a document under the Sultan's seal granting a property to an individual; but an "Azeeb" is rarely accorded, as it exempts a property from all Government control and from payment of taxes. Reissouli desired to obtain the latter privilege, but he appears to have accepted, with a slight remonstrance, the ordinary grant.

He now requests that four districts should be placed under his authority, which would bring within his control a province extending practically from the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier to Laraiche. As the Government force was detailed for duty in that district has been withdrawn and disbanded, Reissouli has a clear field before him. From my information neither the Fahs nor the Gharbia would be at all disposed to submit to his rule, as he has committed many depredations among them; and at the present

moment the Beni Aroz, among whom the captives are detained, are marauding and pillaging among the Gharbia villages.

I am told that the Sultan's Deputy intends to concede all the additional demands of Reissouli, subject to the Sultan's sanction; though his Excellency is still puzzled as to how to effect the arrests of the Sheikhs on which Reissouli insists with much persistency.

All the concessions which Reissouli has contrived to extract from the Moorish Government are, however, to him but an airy fabric, based on no foundations, unless he is assured that he will enjoy in undisturbed peace the fruits of his recent enterprise. No assurance, but a guarantee from a foreign Government, would have any value to him, and his own past experience and many other instances are evidences that no trust can be reposed in the good faith of the Moorish Government. Moreover, he probably is not unaware that pressure will be put on his Government to punish him and his followers for their grave misdeeds.

Reissouli has already informed both the Wazzan-Shereef, Muley Ali, and Mr. Perdicaris, that he will require guarantees both from the United States' Consul-General and myself that he will enjoy personal immunity, and that the Moorish Government will not be permitted to molest him in any way. Muley Ali wrote to his mother, the Shereefa of Wazzan, to the above effect, and inquired whether such guarantees could be granted. I told the Shereefa that it was out of the question that either Government could or would furnish any guarantee of the nature suggested. It was not clear whether Reissouli wished the request to be transmitted to my American colleague and myself, but I imagine that such was the case.

I am told that Hadj Mohammed Torres has sent back to Reissouli the intermediary who is employed in the negotiations, to inform the latter that he will be accorded the districts he asks for, but that he can arrest the Sheikh of Wad Ras himself, as the Government are incapable of doing so; and that the ransom demanded and the prisoners will be handed over to him simultaneously with the release of the captives, but not before. The former Sheikh of Beni M'sour is, with his brother, in Tangier; and I suppose the authorities will imprison him when the captives are liberated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Reissouli to Cid Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 27 *Rabbia I*, 1322 (*June* 12.1904).

I RECEIVED your esteemed letter and read it and understood its contents; you sent to me with it a "Dahir" from the Sultan, appointing me over the said two villages and I accept it; but it is in the knowledge of the Sultan that this was not my object; my object was that the "dahir" should be the same as those of the Shereefs I. E. Azeebs. And now, as you have placed me in this service, you must write to obtain for me the Fahs Kabyla and the Gharbia and Bedawa and Aamar; I am prepared for Government service and you will only see from me that which will please you, by the power of God, in everything, and above your expectations. I want you to hasten to obtain this.

As to what you say that I should name a bank to place the money in, know that I do not understand these things, and I therefore want the money delivered to my cousin, Sidi-el-Hassan, and the Shereef Muley Hamid-el Wazani—50,000 dollars in bills, and 20,000 dollars in gold. The prisoners to be delivered on their responsibility as follows:—Seventeen prisoners of M'zoura and the Gharbia prisoners, Hamed Ben Ali and the Shereef Sereer, the prisoners from the Azeebs of Beni Aros, 4; and the prisoners of that Kabyla, 2. One Ghorafi and eleven Ben Ider prisoners; and Abdallah-el-Ashad and his brothers, Hamed and Ci Mohammed Harishif and Hadj-el-Arbi-el-Mahallim-el-Wad Rasi, and his nephew, nicknamed Boujdad, are to be imprisoned without excuse. The two Christians are well, and when the matter is settled I will accompany them myself to near Tangier.

(Signed) MD. BEN ABD. REISSOULI.

P.S.—As regards my request to be appointed over the said Kabylas, I have only spoken briefly, and have explained the matter to the bearer, who will recount it to you.

M. B. A. R.

No. 237.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 91.)
Tangier, June 16, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding certain measures which the Moorish Government propose to take with the view of procuring order and tranquillity in these regions, and I also beg leave to inclose copy of my reply.

Their first step towards safeguarding the security of this town has not been very opportune or reassuring. Yesterday a detachment of some 400 troops arrived by sea from Casablanca in two specially-chartered steamers. This arrival was quite unexpected, and I fear that Reissouli will consider that the Moorish authorities have committed a breach of their engagements, and rendered nugatory their promise to remove Government troops from this district. Should he take this view, delay may occur in the release of the captives.

It is quite possible that the Moorish Government were under the impression that the captives were already released, and that they could move troops without endangering the safety of the two gentlemen. I am inclined to believe that this was the case, as a short time ago the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at a suggestion from me, stopped the departure of some troops from Fez who were to operate in a district near to Tangier. It would have been prudent if the Moorish Government had in the first place assured themselves that the captives were at liberty before giving orders for the dispatch of a contingent.

The composition and appearance of the troops who landed yesterday do not inspire any confidence, and I doubt if any European resident would be inclined to trust to their protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

Ben Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 24 *Rabbia I*, 1322 (*June* 9, 1904).

I WROTE to you on the 18th instant, informing you of His Shereefian Majesty's regret at the occurrence to the American and English gentlemen who are detained by Reissouli, and of His Majesty's constant concern in the steps to obtain the release of the two gentlemen in safety, and of his granting all the demands of Reissouli, notwithstanding the great damage of which not one could be endured were it not from regard to this occurrence, which has greatly distressed His Majesty. You will have received that letter, and I trust to receive early good news of the release of the two detained gentlemen.

After this a Shereefian order has been issued for the dispatch of a number of soldiers by sea to Tangier, in addition to the soldiers there; so that the soldiers who are being sent shall go out to guard all the inhabited quarters outside Tangier, in the mountain and elsewhere; and an influential, intelligent, vigorous Commander has been appointed to command the said troops, and also the soldiers who are there now, and to station them in all the places in such a manner that not the slightest fear may remain to the inhabitants of the town of Tangier and the environs, and all places and all roads leading to it, by the power of God. All matters regarding the soldiers are in the hand of the said Commander, who will arrive there with the soldiers immediately.

The Makhzen is also preparing a considerable number of strong horsemen to fill all those places from whence anything is to be feared, and to patrol them night and day; and an influential Commander has been appointed over them, and he also will arrive immediately. All this is from His Majesty's concern to insure the fullest safety to the people of those districts, and especially the subjects of the friendly foreign nations resident there. Then His Shereefian Majesty heard that the respected British Government has the intention to land a number of soldiers at Tangier for the purpose of affording safety to its subjects residing there, and His Majesty has instructed me to send you this letter to say that you have perfect right in your concern in matters which will give the fullest security to subjects, as every one who is in charge of his

nationals must take the utmost concern to take all possible steps to insure the safety of his countrymen. This is an important matter and not a simple one, but intelligent persons such as you look to the general good as well as to the particular, and select those measures whose results are safe, and which will not lead to greater harm nor cause further alarm; therefore it will not be hidden from you that alarm will be caused to the Moors, and that a number of the great Powers will follow this precedent at once. There is no doubt of the great harm which will accrue from it, the extent of which cannot be known. You are a friend coming from the nation towards whom His Shereefian Majesty and the Moorish Government have a special friendship, and you will not agree to give your consent to such a step. You will see from His Majesty adequate measures taken which will not leave any grounds for the perpetration of anything which will preoccupy the people in general. His Shereefian Majesty hopes that you will do your best to avoid anything of the above being done, and to obtain the return of the ships which are now there.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM BEN SLIMAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

Sir A. Nicolson to Ben Sliman.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, June* 16, 1904.

I HAVE received the letter which your Excellency was good enough to address to me on the 24th Rabbia I, 1322 (9th June, 1904), and I would be glad if you could convey to His Majesty my renewed thanks for the concern and good feeling which he is evincing in connection with the very lamentable affair of the detention of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley.

I am glad to hear that the Moorish Government are contemplating some measures for the protection of the population of Tangier and its neighbourhood, and I trust that these measures may be attended with good results, but your Excellency will doubtless bear in mind that no movements of troops should take place until Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley are set at liberty.

Your Excellency states that you have heard that my Government intended to land men here. I was not aware of any such intention. At the same time, it is possible to conceive that circumstances might arise which would render such a measure imperative; and I am glad to observe that your Excellency recognizes that I have a perfect right to afford the fullest security to my nationals, and to take all possible steps to insure their safety, but you may rest assured that no action would be taken without due consideration.

I regret to say that my compatriot is still in captivity; but on this subject, as well as on the measures to be adopted hereafter, I refrain from addressing your Excellency at this moment. Peace, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 238.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 27.)

(No. 92.)

My Lord, *Tangier, June* 18, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Dar-al-Baida, relative to the removal of the Governor of that town and the unfortunate consequences which might ensue therefrom.

I spoke to my French colleague on the subject, who told me that he had received similar information to that contained in Mr. Consul Maclean's despatch. He agreed with me in considering that it was not a matter in which we could properly intervene in any official form, but he said that he would ask Count Saint Aulaire to mention the question to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to point out that both the European and native population at Dar-al-Baida desired to retain the Governor, and feared disturbances if he were removed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 238.

Consul Maclean to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 68. *Dar-al-Baida, June* 15, 1904.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the news is confirmed that Kaïd Wold Lyashi, of Ooled Saïd, has been appointed to supersede the present Governor of Dar-al-Baida.

A large portion of the native population of the town has appealed to the Oomana on the grounds that the removal of Kaïd Hadj Hamed Bil Arbi would lead to tribal disturbances in the immediate environs of the town.

A deputation of Europeans called upon me this morning to ascertain whether I would undertake to forward a Petition to the Diplomatic Body praying that pressure might he brought to bear on the Sultan to cancel Kaïd Lyashi's appointment. I replied that it did not seem to me to be a matter in which I could intervene.

The British merchants pointed out that their interests were concerned, as the appointment of Kaïd Lyashi was bound to lead to trouble and interfere with business, and that it would prevent the tribes of Ooled Saïd, Mzab, and others from bringing their produce into town. I promised that I would bring what they said to your notice.

I believe the merchants' fears are justified, and were it not probable that Kaïd Lyashi had actually bought the post, it would seem to me almost incredible that the Makhzen would commit such a folly as to remove Kaïd Hadj Hamed Bil Arbi in the present critical state of affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ALLAN MACLEAN.

No. 239.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received June* 28.)

(No. 76.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 28, 1904.

SECURITY at Tangier.

Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 72.

I am confidentially informed by the French Minister that he has received the approval of the French Government to his suggestions for maintaining order and safeguarding the Europeans in this town by organizing a body of troops under a Moorish officer, who will be assisted by a Frenchman and some Algerians; and also by the formation of a small police force with a strong Algerian element and under a French Commissioner. M. Saint-René Taillandier considers the reply of the Moorish Government, with whom he has been in communication on the subject, to some extent encouraging, in that the principle of French co-operation is admitted by them. They were, he tells me, about to appoint for the organization of the troops here one of the officers attached to the French Military Mission at Fez, but had refrained after having received letters both from Sid Ghannam and also from Sid Torres, stating that foreigners were now reassured as to their personal safety, and presenting in a very favourable light the present condition of affairs at Tangier.

As Reissouli obtained no guarantee for his personal safety the French Minister considers there is considerable danger to Europeans in the present situation. He asks me whether I can warn the Moorish Government that the situation still remains precarious. M. Saint-René Taillandier regrets that the ships of war have been withdrawn; only two American ships now remain, and he hopes that these will be kept here at least until the arrival of a French man-of-war.

Personally I am of opinion that—if it can be spared—a ship of war should be kept at Gibraltar for the present, as I think it is by no means improbable that fresh captures may be attempted.

No. 240.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, June* 29, 1904.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Admiralty state that orders will be given for a ship to be retained for the present at Gibraltar, in view of the situation at Tangier.

No. 241.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 30, 1904.

KAID-BEN-HIMA, formerly Governor of Saffi, has arrived at Tangier for the purpose of providing for the safety of the public in this town: he has instructions to organize a service of guards.

No. 242.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received June 30.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, June* 30, 1904.

PUBLIC safety at Tangier.

My telegram No. 76 of the 28th June.

Yesterday evening the two remaining American ships of war left Tangier.

No. 243.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 25, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley returned here late last night after a captivity of five weeks.

I beg leave to inclose copy of a note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the detention of the British subject, Mr. Varley.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Sir A. Nicolson to Ben Sliman.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, June* 25, 1904.

THE British subject, Mr. Varley, returned here yesterday evening after over five weeks' detention by Reissouli and the Beni Aroz tribe. As your Excellency is aware, this gentleman was forcibly abducted from his house, and, after being mishandled and ill-treated, was carried away into captivity. A crime of this nature is a sad proof of the state of anarchy into which this neighbourhood has been allowed to fall, and it shows that malefactors can enact evil deeds without fear and in defiance of authority. It is absolutely necessary that this condition of affairs be speedily remedied, and that it be made abundantly clear to all that the perpetration of crimes such as that which was recently committed will not be permitted.

The Moorish Government must recognise their responsibility for the safety and security of all residents in this country, and it is their duty to see that measures are adopted which will prevent the recurrence of incidents which endanger the lives and

disturb the peace of mind of foreign residents. Life under prevailing conditions is intolerable to those who are accustomed to live under orderly government, and I cannot impress too strongly on your Excellency the necessity of establishing without delay tranquillity and security in this neighbourhood.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 244.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 1.)

(No. 32. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, July* 1, 1904.

NEGOTIATIONS between France and Spain.

The following is Confidential:—

The language which M. Delcassé is reported to have used three days ago to the effect that the influence of Spain over the territory which is to be allotted to her did not exist until the Empire of Morocco came to an end, has greatly disturbed the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency appeared to be of the opinion that if police influence in Morocco were exercised by France, Spain would have to do likewise in her future sphere.

To this I replied that, in my opinion, there was no question of any police influence being exercised by either Power at present. An advance of money was being made by France in order to save the Moorish Empire, and its existence might be prolonged for many years to come.

I said that there should be no unnecessary mistrust in treating this question, which was a delicate one, from every point of view.

Señor San Pedro replied that the continuance of the *status quo* was what he most desired. He would, however, not put his signature to an Agreement whereby Spanish rights were abandoned. His Excellency had yesterday communicated by telegraph with the Spanish Ambassador in London.

He repeated that France would have no right to make arrangements to undertake the police of Tangier.

I expressed the opinion that, in the present negotiations, a diplomatic, and not a contentious, spirit was the great essential.

No. 245.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne —(Received July 1.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 1, 1904.

LOANS. Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 87 of the 11th ultimo.

I am informed by the French Minister that the French loan contract has now been signed in Paris, having been signed on the 12th ultimo at Fez on behalf of the Moorish Government.

The Agents who are to be assigned to the custom-houses at each of the ports, as also the representative of the loan contractors, arrived at Tangier to-day.

No. 246.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne—(Received July 2.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 2, 1904.

I AM forwarding by first post a petition which I have received, addressed to your Lordship, stating that the lives and property of British subjects at Tangier will not be safe until the brigand, Reissouli, together with his followers, have been punished, and praying that protection may be afforded them, as they consider that the presence of ships-of-war at Gibraltar is no guarantee for their safety.

This petition is signed by nearly all the British subjects here.

No. 247.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 86.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 2, 1904.*

THE Spanish Ambassador asked me to give him an interview to-day. Your telegram No. 32 of the 1st instant had prepared me for the communication which his Excellency made to me. It was to the effect that the negotiations between the Spanish Ambassador at Paris and M. Delcassé had been virtually concluded, when at the last moment M. Delcassé intimated that he desired the addition of a new clause under which the Spanish Government were to be precluded from taking any action within the sphere of influence which was to be allotted to Spain until such time as the *status quo* in Morocco had come to an end. His Excellency said that the Spanish Government regarded this as a very grave announcement, and entirely inconsistent with the intention of the Declaration respecting Egypt and Morocco made by the British and French Governments. If such a clause as M. Delcassé proposed were to be accepted it would result that France would, for an indefinite period, have an exclusive title to establish her influence in Morocco, and she would do so in such a manner that Spain would never be given an opportunity of claiming that the political status of Morocco had been altered, and that the moment had come for the assertion of her rights to a sphere of influence in that country. His Excellency reminded me of the passage in my despatch of the 8th April, 1904, to Sir Edmund Monson, in which I wrote as follows:—

"An adequate and satisfactory recognition of Spanish interests, political and territorial, has been from the first in the view of His Majesty's Government an essential element in any settlement of the Morocco question. Spain has possessions on the Moorish coast, and the close proximity of the two countries has led to a reasonable expectation on the part of the Spanish Government and people that Spanish interests would receive special consideration in any arrangement affecting the future of Morocco."

I told his Excellency that without knowing more precisely what M. Delcassé had proposed it was difficult for me to express an opinion. I reminded his Excellency, however, that in Article II of the Declaration—an Article to which, so far as I was aware, the Spanish Government had never taken exception—His Majesty's Government had recognized "that it appertains to France more particularly as a Power whose dominions are coterminous for a great distance with those of Morocco, to preserve order in that country and to provide assistance for the purpose of all administrative, economic, financial, and military reforms which it may require." It seemed to me clear that this Article contemplated a state of things in which France would exercise a preponderating influence in the Sultan's councils—an influence which could not fail to react upon all parts of His Highness' dominions. What seemed to me to be of real importance was that in the event of a disintegration of Morocco the interests of Spain should not be overlooked, and I understood that M. Delcassé had agreed to provide for this contingency to the satisfaction of the Spanish Government. I asked his Excellency whether he could give me an idea of the manner in which Spain hoped in the immediate future to exercise her influence in certain portions of Morocco. Did the Spanish Government desire to construct railways, or to create a force of police, or to advance money to the Moorish Government? His Excellency did not seem able to answer my question, and I ventured to add that I thought the Spanish Government would do well to avoid preferring a claim to do these things, and endeavouring to prevent another Power from doing them, unless they were really in a position to undertake in certain territories of Morocco the responsibilities which the French Government were about to assume in the greater portion of the country. If they really desired to effect improvements in the districts adjoining their own possessions, I thought it would be well that they should make a concrete proposal to that effect, and see how it was received. I added that I would endeavour to ascertain the views of the French Government, and that I should be glad to speak to his Excellency again upon the subject next week.

His Excellency told me that he regarded the incident as one of the gravest importance. The increase or diminution of the Spanish sphere by a few miles of not very valuable country mattered comparatively little, but this was a direct denial of rights which Spain could not abandon. He believed that nothing would induce the Spanish Government to sign such an Article, and that if they were pressed to do so they would probably make an appeal to the Powers.

Your Excellency will recollect a statement made to me on the 1st ultimo by the German Ambassador as to the possibility of intervention by the German Govern-

ment in the event of Spain receiving less than justice at the hands of France. It occurred to me that the Duc de Mandas' observation not improbably pointed to an attempt to obtain German support, should the French Government prove obdurate.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 248.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 4, 1904.*

I APPROVE your language to Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, as reported in your telegram No. 32 of the 1st instant, on the subject of the Franco-Spanish negotiations.

No. 249.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 361.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, July 4, 1904.*

I MENTIONED to the French Ambassador to-day, in strict confidence, the observations which had been made to me on the 2nd instant by the Spanish Ambassador. I told him that, even if it were recognized that Spain had an immediate right of exercising a kind of peaceful penetration within the sphere of influence assigned to her by the Anglo-French Declaration, I thought it unlikely that the Spanish Government would be able to turn its opportunities to account. It would, however, be a pity not to recognize, in theory, at all events, her aspirations in this direction; a peremptory refusal would have a bad effect, and possibly lead to international difficulties. His Excellency told me that the accounts which he had received from Paris did not at all agree with the Duc de Mandas' statement, and that he had understood that the difficulty had arisen in consequence of the demand of the Spanish Ambassador for leave to publish an Agreement as to the manner in which the possessions of the Sultan were to be disposed of in the event of the disintegration of Morocco. So far as the immediate future was concerned M. Delcassé had been ready to humour the Spanish Government, and had made certain proposals to them with this object.

I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 250.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 94. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, July 1, 1904.*

TO-DAY I found Señor San Pedro much disturbed at the language used a few days ago by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in the negotiations respecting Morocco.

M. Delcassé denied that Spain could claim to exercise any control over her future sphere of influence in Morocco until that Empire ceased to exist.

Now, if France, in virtue of Article 2 of the Anglo-French Agreement, exercises police and other control in Morocco, Spain should have similar rights in the coast districts allotted to her future sphere of influence; it was not for France to control all Morocco.

I expressed astonishment and some alarm. Nothing could be more dangerous than for the two Powers to raise this police question now whilst the Empire of Morocco was in existence, not only would it excite the local fanaticism, but create European difficulty.

There is every reason to avoid all appearance of direct in-mixture from without in Morocco. France, possessing Algeria, was interested in order being maintained, and

French money was being advanced to save the Empire of Morocco, which might for many years continue to exist.

It was really essential that this delicate negotiation should be carried on without unnecessary mistrust.

Señor San Pedro answered me that the continuance of the *status quo* is his wish, which I was glad to hear, but he added that he would sign no Agreement which abandoned Spanish rights.

He had yesterday telegraphed to the Spanish Ambassador in London, who would inform your Lordship of his views.

His Excellency spoke of Tangier. and that France might have pretension to exercise police control there. I did not partake his fears, and generally urged a large and conciliatory conduct in the negotiation, which it was essential to conclude soon.

I have learnt since that the phrase used by M. Delcassé, which excited the Spanish Minister, was that he would have "no condominium" now in Morocco—a very natural expression of opinion.

I have no reason to think that any foreign Representative is encouraging Señor San Pedro in his susceptibility, and that he is only displaying a too excessive legal caution.

It is consequently necessary on the French side to be extemely guarded and careful in form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 251.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 93.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 6, 1904.

THE Spanish Ambassador spoke to me again to-day with regard to the negotiations now proceeding between Spain and France as to the influence of those two Powers in Morocco. In the course of his observations, which were upon the same lines as those recorded in my despatch No. 86 of the 2nd instant, his Excellency observed that if any police were to be sent to Tangier for the purpose of restoring public confidence, those police ought, in his opinion, to be supplied by the Spanish Government. I told his Excellency that it seemed to me very doubtful whether Spain would be well advised in attempting to undertake a task of the kind, but that I did not see why the Spanish Government should not raise specifically the question of their right to the construction of railways or other useful works for developing the resources of the country within the sphere of influence which it was proposed to assign to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE

No. 252.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 77.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 6, 1904.

I HAVE received Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 94 of the 25th ultimo, reporting the return of Messrs. Perdicaris and Varley to Tangier after five weeks' captivity at the hands of the Brigand Chief, Reissouli.

I approve the terms of Sir A. Nicolson's note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the detention of Mr. Varley.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 253.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 8.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, July* 8, 1904.

FRANCO-SPANISH negotiations.

Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs appeared calm to-day, and matters are, I hope, proceeding satisfactorily.

The French must show kindness and tact in their treatment of the Spanish Government.

Minister for Foreign Affairs agrees that any disturbance of *status quo*, or hasty action calculated to excite fanaticism, should be avoided.

I again impressed upon his Excellency that he ought not to be apprehensive as regards French action in Tangier as long as His Majesty's Government is not so, and that existing Spanish interests in that town—police, educational, and commercial—are in no danger.

No. 254.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 368.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 8, 1904.

THE French Ambassador asked me to see him this morning. He told me that in consequence of the observations which I had addressed to him on the 4th instant, he had informed M. Delcassé of the nature of the apprehensions which the Duc de Mandas had expressed with regard to Spanish interests in Morocco.

M. Delcassé had authorized his Excellency to read to me a letter which he had lately addressed to the French Ambassador at Madrid. His Excellency accordingly proceeded to do so. In this letter M. Delcassé expressed his readiness to associate Spanish officials with the French officials in two out of the three ports of which the customs revenues would be affected as security for the new French loan. Besides this, it was explained that Spain was to have a share in the economic development of the country; a share the nature of which was explained in the VIIIth Article of a draft Convention to which the French Government was ready to give its adherence.

M. Cambon explained to me that this economic participation had reference, *e.g.*, to the construction of railways or "voies de pénétration." It was, therefore, his Excellency said, clear that the French Government were fully disposed to have regard to Spanish susceptibilities in these matters. As for police, there was no question of imposing the presence of a French police force upon the Moorish Government. M. Delcassé's idea, on the contrary, was that it might be possible at the instance of the Sultan himself to lend the Moorish Government a French Agent to assist in reorganizing the Moorish police. The statement in the newspapers that a force of Algerian police was to be sent to Tangier no doubt originated in the fact that the European population at Tangier had been clamouring for such a step. It would, however, M. Cambon said, be most unwise to send Spanish police to Tangier or elsewhere, for their presence would be resented by the native population and the Sultan would be indignant.

His Excellency authorized me to communicate the substance of what he had said to me to the Duc de Mandas, and I did so at an interview which took place between the Duke and myself later in the day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 255.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 95.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July* 8, 1904.

I ASKED the Spanish Ambassador to call on me to-day, and explained to him the extent to which the French Government were ready to agree to the participation of

Spain in the development of Morocco, repeating to his Excellency the substance of my conversation with the French Ambassador, as recorded in my despatch No. 368 of to-day, of which I inclose a copy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 256.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 11.)

(No. 98. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, June* 30, 1904.

THE French Minister came to see me recently to speak of the present state of insecurity in this neighbourhood, and said that he feared that since the release of the captives people were being lulled into a false sense of security, whereas, in his opinion, there was really more danger now than whilst Mr. Perdicaris and Mr. Varley were still in the hands of their captors. He said that from conversations he had held with the Shereefs of Wazzan, as well as from what he had gathered from other sources, Reissouli was much disappointed at not having obtained the guarantees he desired, and that he meditating other captures as soon as a favourable opportunity occurred, his prestige and power having been greatly enhanced by his late success and the large sum of money he holds, whilst, on the other hand, others might well be tempted to follow his example.

M. Saint-René Taillandier went on to say that, in view of this state of affairs and of the special position of France since the signature of the Anglo-French Agreement, he had made representations to his Government on the subject and had, at their request, made certain suggestions as to the manner in which the security of life and property should be provided for. The French Government, as was to be expected in so delicate a matter, had taken some time to consider his proposals, but had now signified their approval. His idea, he proceeded to explain, was to form a small body of police under a Commissaire and a Sous-Commissaire, who would both be Frenchmen; under these there would be twelve Algerians as a staff, and the body of the force would be recruited locally, but would also consist principally of Algerians; the total force numbering about fifty.

In addition to this force he would have a military force under the command of a Moorish officer, with whom, however, would be associated as second in command a French Captain, and there would also be a backbone, as it were, of Algerians. This force would co-operate with the police in maintaining order and public security at Tangier and its immediate neighbourhood.

M. Saint-René Taillandier informed me that he had already been in communication with the Moorish Government on this subject, and was encouraged by their reply, in that it admitted the principle of French co-operation. The Moorish Government had gone so far as to appoint an Algerian non-commissioned officer, and were about to appoint Captain Larras, of the French Military Mission, as second in command when letters arrived from Sid Torres and Sid Ghannam alleging that there was no further cause for anxiety, that people here, official and private, were reassured, and that the ships of war were leaving. Upon the receipt of these reports the Moorish Government had drawn back, and the French Secretary at Fez, Count Saint Aulaire, now found it more difficult to treat with them. M. Saint-René Taillandier said he would be glad if the Moorish Government could be made to understand that the situation was not so reassuring as Sid Torres and Sid Ghannam had alleged, and he inquired whether I could make any representation on the subject. I informed him that the latest communications made by Sir A. Nicolson to the Moorish Government could not leave them under any misapprehension on that point. The French Minister regretted the departure of some of the ships of war, and hoped that the two American cruisers, then remaining, would not leave until the arrival of ships he was expecting.

I saw the French Minister again to-day and informed him that a British man-of-war would remain at Gibraltar for the present, and I inquired of him whether he knew when his ships would arrive.

M. Saint-René Taillandier replied that he had no definite news on the subject, but that he had asked for a large cruiser and a dispatch vessel, and he looked to their presence to support his representations in regard to the formation of the police and military forces above referred to.

I mentioned that it was reported that some Algerian soldiers were to arrive immediately. This he denied, saying that nothing would be done until after the ships of war were here. If the Moorish Government should then raise difficulties, additional pressure would probably be brought to bear on them by increasing the number of ships.

I gathered from the French Minister's conversation that he was very anxious to have as much regard as possible for the feelings of the Sultan and his Government, and to try all possible means to obtain their consent and co-operation by pursuasion, but that pressure would be brought to bear on them if necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 257.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 11.)

(No. 102.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 2, 1904.

KAID HAMZA-BEN-HIMA, ex-Governor of Safi, who arrived here on the 28th ultimo, has been intrusted by the Sultan with the duty of providing for the public safety in this town and its immediate neighbourhood, and for this purpose he will have at his disposal a body of nearly 1,000 men, consisting of about 500 local infantry, who will be used for guarding the town and its more immediate neighbourhood, the troops recently arrived from Dar-al-Baida, numbering about 400, which will have charge of the outlying districts, and a force of about 100 cavalry expected to arrive shortly.

These troops, together with the night guards or watchmen supplied by the neighbouring villages, and the town night patrol, numbering together upwards of 250 men, who remain under the control of the Basha, should be amply sufficient, if properly organized, to provide for the safety of this district, but, unfortunately, one can have no confidence in any Moorish officials in such matters, and it is only too probable that, after a short time, the numbers of the guards will be allowed to dwindle, and those that remain will be negligent in the fulfilment of their duties. Without some sort of control by Europeans it is useless to expect any efficient and permanent protection for the lives and property of Europeans here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 258.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 11.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 2, 1904.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 87 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the contract for the French Loan, which had been signed at Fez on behalf of the Moorish Government on the 12th June, was only signed at Paris on behalf of the Pays-Bas and other banks associated with it in floating the loan, on the 28th ultimo, after a meeting had been held to discuss the matter.

The French Minister informs me that there had been a disposition on the part of the banks at the last moment to endeavour to obtain other terms, and that he had to warn them that, if they did not close with the contract as it stood, they would risk losing it altogether.

M. Saint-René Taillandier evidently did not feel himself at liberty to communicate to me all the terms of the contract, but he was good enough to furnish me with the following particulars:—

The loan is nominally for 62,500,000 fr., but the amount actually paid to the Moorish Government will be only 50,000,000 fr., the rate of interest being 5 per cent. The term fixed for the redemption of the loan is thirty years, and no increase can be made in the amount of the sinking fund until after the expiration of fifteen years. The whole of the Customs revenues are assigned as security for the loan. The contractors will have agents at all the ports, who, though not actually sitting with the Administrators, will receive daily statements of receipts, which they will be at liberty to verify, and they will take 60 per cent. of the amounts collected during each day.

The political conditions, M. Saint-René Taillandier said, were not hard, the moment not being considered propitious; but he observed that by the time the Moorish Government had paid off the existing loans, which are a first charge on this loan, and their various other debts, the margin left for carrying on the government of the country would be very small, and it was anticipated that application would soon have to be made for a further loan, and then they would be in a position to dictate the terms.

I observed that I had understood that some control would be exercised over the spending of this loan. M. Saint-René Taillandier, however, replied that this idea had been abandoned, and that there was no word of such control in the contract, but that it was possible that when the Moorish Government came to draw the last few millions, advice would be given as to the manner of spending it.

With regard to M. Regnault, hitherto Consul-General at Geneva, who has arrived as representative of the contractors, M. Saint-René Taillandier informed me that for the present his functions would be very limited. He would make a voyage to the coast to install the agents at the various custom-houses, and would then return to France before coming to reside here in October.

It was intended that eventually he should be accepted by the Sultan as Financial Adviser, and for that reason an official connected with the Foreign Office had been selected and lent to the loan contractors, but that it was desired to proceed with great caution for the present, and, therefore, M. Regnault would remain at Tangier until the proper moment arrived.

M. Regnault, like all the gentlemen selected as agents at the custom-houses, has served in Tunis, and, therefore, has experience of Oriental countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 259.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 11.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 4, 1904.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BEWICKE reports that there is a general feeling of insecurity amongst the residents at Tetuan owing to reports that one of the prisoners lately released on Reissouli's demand is collecting a body of men with a view of revenging himself for his imprisonment. There are also rumours that the Anjera tribe intend to make captures.

Similar reports regarding the Anjera have reached Tangier. The "Times" correspondent, Mr. Harris, informed me that a deputation from certain villages of that tribe called on him and requested him to let the foreign Representatives know that unless certain of their tribe now in Tangier prison were released, they would capture a European. It is possible that the threat is made in the hopes that it may bring about the release of the prisoners without, however, any real intention of carrying it out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 260.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 12.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July* 8, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 126 of the 1st June to Sir F. Lascelles, printed in the Confidential Print, on the subject of the Agreement affecting Morocco between Great Britain and France, I should observe that the German Ambassador was misinformed as to the consternation which its conclusion had created in Spain.

M. de Radowitz, the German Ambassador here, whom I acquit of the desire to make mischief, is somewhat of a busybody, and he, as well as the Russian Ambassador, talks at length on the subject of Morocco to the Foreign Minister and others; but I do not believe any of my colleagues here have had any instructions to

intervene in any way in the question, in which the Portuguese Minister likewise appears deeply interested.

I have told M. Cambon that such was my conclusion, and he appeared inclined to agree with me.

Quite lately M. de Radowitz asked me what I thought of the French having landed a body of troops at Tangier; I said it was a mischievous invention.

I suppose M. de Radowitz alluded to some French officials for the new Customs having landed at Tangier, with possibly some policemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 261.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 12.)

(No. 98. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Madrid, July* 9, 1904.

YESTERDAY I found Señor San Pedro much calmer than he was last week on the subject of the negotiations with France about Morocco.

He agreed that it was essential to disturb as little as possible the *status quo*—and make as few changes—for fear of exciting the Mussulman fanaticism, the danger mainly to be guarded against at present.

In the appointments of officers of the Customs under the new arrangements he wished Spain to be properly represented. I answered I understood this would be the case. He talked of this being also necessary at points already occupied by Spain, such as Ceuta, Melilla, &c. That at Tangier Spain had already police and various establishments of which she could not renounce the protection.

I said these were all matters for friendly settlement; as for Tangier, he need be under no apprehension. The safety of the Legations and foreign establishments there did not concern one Power alone. No Power was more interested than England in the fate of Tangier, and when my Government was satisfied there was no cause for alarm on his side.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 262.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 14.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 14, 1904.

THE Angera tribe, in consequence of some questions having arisen lately between them and Ceuta, have stopped provisions entering into that town. One of the Spanish civil guards was shot at and wounded, and as a precautionary measure the Spanish Governor has caused guards to be placed along the limits of the Spanish territory.

No. 263.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 14.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 14, 1904.

I HAVE been shown a letter by Mr. Parients, who is Sir E. Cassel's and Mr. Stern's agent here; this letter is addressed by the Finance Minister to Mr. Stern, and states that an arrangement has been come to between the Banque des Pays Bas and the Moorish Government for that Bank to pay off the capital and interest to date of the British Loan.

No. 264.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 15.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 15, 1904.

APPARENTLY reliable information reached me yesterday evening to the effect that a large body of men had collected in the Kabyla of Beni M'sour, and that they intended to make an attack on Mr. Harris' house and capture him. On my communicating with the authorities they sent out a number of men as guard. I have reason to believe that Sid Torres knew of the project; I received a letter from him yesterday requesting me to tell Mr. Harris to come into town for safety; he also complained of him that he went out at nights, and frequented dangerous places, and intermeddled in tribal affairs; these complaints are unfounded. He added that, if Mr. Harris did not come into town, he alone would be responsible for any harm which might happen to him.

In reply I propose to notify Sid Torres that these allegations are denied by Mr. Harris, who will remain at his house. If, however, the Moorish authorities are unable to guarantee the safety of British subjects, including Mr. Harris, I must inform His Majesty's Government of the fact, and it will be for them to decide what steps must be taken to insure their protection.

The object, I understand, of the ringleader and his followers is merely to demand a large ransom; failing Mr. Harris they would capture any one they could lay their hands on; they have no personal animosity against him, but they are disappointed at not having succeeded in obtaining from Reissouli a share of the 70,000 dollars.

I should be grateful if I may be allowed to send for the "Minerva" from Gibraltar should the necessity arise.

No. 265.

[Nil.]

No. 266.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 16.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, July* 15, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated the 15th instant, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, respecting the occasional visit of one of His Majesty's ships to Tangier, in view of the unsettled state of affairs at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 266.

Admiralty to Admiral Sir C. Domvile.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, July* 15, 1904.

FOREIGN OFFICE asks if during the present unsettled condition of affairs at Tangier an occasional visit can be paid to that place by one of His Majesty's ships. Arrange accordingly.

No. 267.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July* 16, 1904

INSECURITY of British residents at Tangier.

Your telegram No. 83 of yesterday.

You are authorized to summon warship from Gibraltar if you should consider it necessary to do so.

No. 268.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 106.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 5, 1904.

A CONSIDERABLE amount of dissatisfaction has been caused by the receipt of orders from the Sultan reducing by one-third the pay of all persons in Government employ. This reduction naturally presses very hard on those who are in receipt of low wages, and a deputation of the "askars," or soldiers, waited upon Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres to point out that, if their pay is thus reduced, it would not be sufficient to enable them to maintain themselves, and that they would prefer to be discharged. Sid Torres promised to make a representation on their behalf to the Sultan, and urged them to have patience and await the result. The majority of the soldiers appear to be satisfied to wait, but I am informed that a considerable number have deserted, and it is probable that, if the reduction of their pay is maintained, the majority of the remainder will also desert. It is on these soldiers that Kaïd ben Hima has to rely for guarding the town and its neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 269.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 6, 1904.

THE interest on the English, French, and Spanish loans, which fell due on the 1st instant, has not yet been paid, there being no funds available at Tangier for that purpose. The agent for the contractors of the English loan having reported to me the default made in the payment, I brought the matter to the notice of Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, who informed me, in a letter of yesterday's date, that he had written on the subject to the Moorish Government.

I took an opportunity of mentioning the matter to the French Minister, who expressed some surprise at the non-payment of the money, as an advance of 1,000,000 fr. had been made to the Moorish Government on account of the new French loan, and it was expected that some of that amount would have been utilized for payment of the coupons of the older loans.

The Moorish official here through whom the payments are made states that he expects to receive the money from Fez at any moment, and it seems probable that payment will not be long delayed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 270.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 108.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 8, 1904.

MR. VICE-CONSUL MACLEOD reports that rumours were current at Fez that the Pretender had left Taza on the 28th ultimo, and moved towards Kasbah M'sûn on the following day with a considerable force, composed of levies from the tribes which joined him last year. It was said that he had arranged for supplies of food and fodder in M'talsa and Guezenaia, from which it was surmised that he intended to visit the Riff provinces.

The French Minister, however, informs me that he has no confirmation of this report, but that, on the contrary, his latest telegrams from the Algerian frontier report that the Pretender was believed to be still at Taza. He considered it, however, not at all improbable that he would make a move in the direction of Melilla, which is his principal source of revenue, the custom-house which he has established there bringing him in a considerable amount.

The news from the frontier was, M. Saint-Réné Taillandier said, much more favourable to the Sultan, several of the tribes recently in rebellion having now joined His Majesty's forces. The troops, however, were suffering from their pay being in arrear.

Exaggerated reports regarding the French loan are said to have created a certain amount of ferment among the hill tribes, who regard it as confirmative of the former reports to which the news of the Anglo-French Agreement had given rise, and it is said that the Pretender has taken advantage of this opportunity, and has addressed letters to the tribes on the subject. It is difficult, however, to obtain trustworthy information as to what passes in these districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 271.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 109. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 9, 1904.

SID EL HADJ EL MEHEDÍ EL MENEBHI arrived at Tangier on the afternoon of the 7th instant, on his return from the East and from France. He was received on landing by Sid Torres and all the local Moorish officials, and a guard of honour, although he at present holds no official position.

Mr. Irwin called upon him to-day to congratulate him, in my name, on his return and to make an appointment for me to visit him. Sid el Menebhi spoke very freely with Mr. Irwin, and gave him some account of his visit to Paris, and of his interviews with M. Delcassé, and with the French Minister, upon whom he has called since his return.

Sid el Menebhi naturally referred to the recent Anglo-French Agreement and appeared quite satisfied with its terms in so far as they referred to Morocco He was aware that the country could not be allowed to continue in its present state, and recognized that it would benefit by French guidance; he is, indeed, ready to lend his assistance in the work of reorganization and reform.

He had, he said, given assurances to this effect to M. Delcassé, who had, in the course of one of their interviews, observed to him that they had not seen him before, as they knew he was a friend of the English. To this he replied that he certainly was a friend of the English, and would always remain so, but that this would not in any way preclude his being at the same time a sincere friend of the French; indeed, Sir A. Nicolson had written to him desiring him to be their friend, and to co-operate with them in improving the condition of Morocco. M. Delcassé seemed very pleased, and said they would be very glad to have his co-operation, adding a suggestion that he should write to him direct at Paris should the occasion arise. Sid el Menebhi, however, said that this would not be necessary, as the French Minister at Tangier doubtless possessed the confidence of his Government, and he could always communicate with M. Delcassé through him.

Sid el Menebhi called yesterday evening on M. Saint-Réné Taillandier, who inquired of him whether he would write to the Sultan to announce his return, and whether he would go to Fez, should he be summoned to the Court.

To this, Sid el Menebhi told Mr. Irwin, he had replied that he had already written to His Shereefian Majesty, but that he would not return to Court until a clear understanding is come to as to the position he would occupy there, as he is convinced that no progress can be made in the matter of reforms so long as the present Ministers remain in office and have influence on the Sultan. He feels that it would be useless for him to go to Fez if His Majesty is going to disregard his counsels and act contrary thereto, as was the case for some time before his departure.

Sid el Menebhi considers the state of the country very unsatisfactory. He said that he was convinced that there would be disturbances in the southern provinces so soon as the harvesting operations were concluded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 272.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 102.)

My Lord, *San Sebastian, July* 15, 1904.

WHEN I went to see Señor San Pedro to-day I met Señor Leon y Castillo, the Spanish Ambassador in Paris, who arrived last night and had just paid his visit to the Foreign Minister.

I said to Señor San Pedro that I trusted he brought good news and that the negotiations with France about Morocco were going on satisfactorily and would be shortly concluded.

He said the Ambassador had only come for a couple of days or so to report personally to the King and to himself, as was frequently his habit when the Court came to San Sebastian.

As for the negotiations they were in a better way; a misunderstanding about which he had spoken to me a fortnight ago and about which the Duke de Mandas had been charged to speak to you, had, he was glad to say, been set right by this reference to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 273.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 18.)

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Admiralty, July* 16, 1904.

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 15th instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, decypher of a telegram dated the 16th instant, from the Commander-in-chief, Mediterranean, relative to sending a war-ship to Tangier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 273.

Admiral Sir C. Domvile to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Malta, July* 16, 1904.

YOUR No. 245.

Directions given to Admiral Superintendent, Gibraltar, to send "Minerva."

No. 274

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received July* 18.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, July* 16, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter of to-day's date, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram dated the 16th instant, which has been sent to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, relative to the necessity for sending a ship of war to Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 274.

Admiralty to Admiral Sir C. Domvile.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, July* 16, 1904.

WITH reference to Admiralty telegram No. 245, Foreign Office asks if, in order to save delay, His Majesty's Representative at Tangier may apply direct to Gibraltar for services of ship there whenever he may consider her presence necessary.

Instruct Gibraltar accordingly.

No. 275.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 18, 1904.

MY despatch No. 102 of the 2nd instant.

Yesterday a Sultan's letter was read in the mosque, appointing Kaïd ben Hima Governor of this district and town.

Sid Benasser Ghannam informs me that, for the present at any rate, the Sultan has declined to give Reissouli more than the two villages which he granted him originally; but hopes were held out that, if he proved himself worthy of confidence, the five provinces and more would be granted to him later on.

No. 276.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 18, 1904.

THE villages of the Fahs close to Tangier have, during the last few days, been the object of raids by some tribesmen from Beni M'souar. As the Fahs acts, to some extent, as a barrier to Tangier, this may tend indirectly to add to the security of Europeans here.

In the districts north of Alcazar and Laraiche there are also reports of fighting and disturbances.

No. 277.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 18.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 18, 1904.

THE house of Mr. Levison, a British subject residing here, was attacked last night. After a brisk exchange of shots the assailants were driven off by the Moorish guards.

Mr. Levison's house is situated about two and a-half miles out of Tangier.

No. 278.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 19.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 19, 1904.

MY despatch 109.

The visit of Menebhi to Paris, and the way he was received by the Moorish authorities on his return has, I hear, much annoyed the Sultan. In an extremely severe letter to Torres His Majesty censures that official for the honour which he showed to Menebhi both on his departure and return; and, at the same time, he attributes to the interference of his son and also to his own negligence the present unsatisfactory position of the country.

No. 279.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 20.)

(No. 103. Confidential.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, July* 17, 1904.

I FEAR, from what M. Cambon tells me, that Señor Leon y Castillo, who returns to Paris to-day, does not use language which points to a speedy termination of the negotiations with France about Morocco.

As if territorial questions had not been already decided, he raised in conversation that of Fez, and thus seems unwilling to relinquish advantages which he considered that he gained for Spain in the secret but academical negotiations of two years ago.

Though Señor San Pedro may desire the conclusion of the present negotiations, I am sorry to say that I have heard from one of my colleagues, though I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement, that Señor Maura hardly realized the importance for Spain of the Agreement almost come to, and certainly in the press there is advocacy of delay with the exercise of vigilance in defence of Spanish interests.

I am loath to believe in, and I will certainly combat in language—opportunity arising—this serious error.

The attitude which it is feared that Spanish Ambassador maintain(s) in this matter makes it less probable that the King can go abroad this year to visit France or any other European country.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) RONALD MACLEAY.

No. 280.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 21.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 21, 1904.

I HAVE been informed by the French Minister that the artillery here is to be placed in charge of an Algerian Sub-Lieutenant and some Moorish non-commissioned officers, who are being sent to Tangier from the Court.

No. 281.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 23.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 23, 1904.

MY despatch No. 98 of the 30th June.

I am informed by the French Minister that a French Commissioner and Sub-Commissioner of Police are expected to arrive here soon; they will be merely for

the private service of the French Legation for the present; under them there will be some Algerian native policemen. If possible the French Minister wishes to select these from among Algerians now residing in Morocco.

No. 282.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 24.)

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, July 24, 1904.*

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs offered, in order to arrive, if possible, at agreement on the Morocco question, on return of Señor Leon y Castillo to Paris, to put off his journey for a few days.

I am apprehensive that Señor San Pedro may still insist upon fixing a date when the Spanish sphere of influence is to be publicly defined. This publication might be dangerous, as it would arouse the susceptibility of the Moors, and for that reason the French cannot agree to it.

No. 283.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 14, 1904.*

A SHORT time since some men of the Angera tribe took to Ceuta and sold there some cattle which had been stolen from the neighbouring tribe of Wad Ras, who claimed their return from the Angera. The Angera then sent in to Ceuta to ask that the cattle be given back, but this was refused unless the money paid for them was returned.

Displeased with this reply, the Angera have decided to cut off all the supplies, and I hear from the Spanish Minister that no provisions whatever are now entering Ceuta by land.

There is a certain amount of excitement amongst the tribesmen in the neighbourhood of the Spanish lines, and shots have been exchanged, a Spanish Guardia Civil having been wounded. The General in command at Ceuta has called out the troops, and placed troops all along the limits of the Spanish territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE,

No. 284.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 14, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 106 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to report that orders have now been received from the Court exempting the "Askars" from the general order previously issued for the reduction of all salaries; the "Askars" will, therefore, continue to receive pay at the same rate as formerly.

The Sultan is well advised in not reducing the pay of the "Askars," as otherwise they would certainly have all deserted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 285.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 112.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 14, 1904.*

THE French Minister informs me that he proposes to visit the Moorish Court early in the autumn, as it is desirable that he should see the Sultan and his Ministers and discuss the present position with them. Before, however, proceeding to Fez, it is

necessary that he should be furnished with definite instructions as to the line he should adopt, and the proposals he should make to the Sultan.

He would, therefore, visit Paris about the middle of September, in order to discuss the subject with his Government, and to be fully prepared for his Mission to Fez.

Count Saint Aulaire, the French Secretary now at Fez, has not, so far as I could gather, been able to make much progress with his negotiations, and will shortly return to Tangier, leaving M. Ben Ghabrit, the Algerian Interpreter to the Legation, to act as Vice-Consul at Fez. The negotiations in regard to the police force at Tangier will, I presume, be continued through M. Ben Ghabrit, who is a very intelligent and zealous official, as M. Saint-Réné Taillandier has evidently no intention to let the matter drop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 286.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 113.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 14, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 103, of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that M. Regnault, the representative of the Contractors of the French loan, has chartered a French steamer for the purpose of visiting all the ports and installing the French delegates at the various custom-houses. He has already visited Tetuan, and the delegate has entered upon his functions at that port, as also has the delegate appointed for Tangier.

The French Minister informs me that the installation of these delegates has passed off satisfactorily on the whole. It was not to be expected that they would be very cordially welcomed by the Moorish Customs officials, who were careful not to go beyond the strict letter of their instructions from the Court; the work, however, was proceeding smoothly, and M. Saint-Réné Taillandier had no doubt that more cordiality would be shown to the delegates when they were better known personally, and the Moorish officials had become accustomed to their presence.

Moorish officials have been appointed as Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to act in concert with M. Regnault, who is to be accompanied by the latter official on his visit to the ports.

Rumours have been current lately that the country people were much excited at the news of the arrival of French officials to be appointed at the custom-houses, and it was feared that disturbances might arise. So far, however, these fears have proved to be groundless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 287.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 15, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 104 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report that the prisoners, whose release was demanded by the Anghera tribe, have been set at liberty by order of the Sultan.

It appears that a letter had been addressed to Sid Torres demanding their release, and his Excellency, thinking it more prudent to yield to their demand than run the risk of further captures, applied to His Majesty for the necessary authority.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 288.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 115.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 15, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 107 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that an arrangement has been made by the Moorish Government with the "Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas" for paying off the capital as well as the interest of the loan made by Sir E. Cassel and Mr. Stern.

I beg leave to transmit herewith translation of a letter to that effect addressed by the Minister of Finance to Mr. Stern, which has been shown to me by the agent of the latter.

Similar arrangements have, I understand, been made for paying off the former French and Spanish loans out of the amount received on the new French loan.

I hear privately that the Spanish holders of the old loan have been offered a share in the new loan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 288.

Mohammed Tazzi to Mr. Stern.

(Translation.)

Praise to God.

THE respected bankers, Messrs. Stern Brothers of London, England, after many inquiries about you, trusting you may always continue well, the Shereefian Government has decided, in conformity with the contents of the conditions of the Loan Contract entered into with you to pay the sum borrowed, *i.e.*, 300,000*l.*, and thereby annul the loan. I therefore notify you that the Shereefian Government has made the whole of the said sum payable to you at the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas in Paris, and has instructed them to pay it to you in full, with the profit (interest) due up to the date payment is received.

Finished the 18th Rabia II, 1322 (3rd July, 1904).

Minister of Finance to the Shereefian Government,
(Signed) MOHAMMED TAZZI.

(God be gracious to him.)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful translation of the original letter in the Arabic language.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE,
His Majesty's Consul.

Tangier, July 14, 1904.

No. 289.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 116. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 16, 1904.

THE French Minister informs me that a somewhat unpleasant incident has arisen at Fez in connection with the arrival there of Mr. Langerman, formerly United States' Vice-Consul here, but now no longer holding any official position at the Consulate-General, who is visiting the Court, it is supposed, in connection with the St. Louis Exhibition, of the Moorish section of which he states he is the Commissioner.

When announcing his intention of visiting Fez, Mr. Langerman, it appears, asked that he should be accommodated in the Bennis house, which is always assigned to foreign Ministers when on missions at the Court. The French Secretary, Count Saint Aulaire, on hearing of this called on Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman and pointed out to him that the house in question is reserved for Ministers, that he himself had accepted without demur the house offered to him, which was a "dépendance" of the Bennis house, and that he would regard it as an affront if the latter house were given

to Mr. Langerman, who occupied no official position, whereas it had not been given to the First Secretary of the French Legation who was at the Court on an official mission.

Sid-ben-Sliman assured him that there could be no question of giving Mr. Langerman the Bennis house, but that one of the other houses reserved for Europeans visiting the Court would be prepared for him.

On Mr. Langerman's arrival he was offered the house which had been occupied by the United States' Vice-Consul, who had left Fez a few days before, and, on his refusing it, he was offered another good house, but he insisted on having the Bennis house. The demand was referred to the Council of Ministers, who were unanimous in their opinion that it should not be given to him. In the meantime, however, it appears that Mr. Langerman went direct to the Sultan and obtained from His Majesty an order for the house to be given to him.

Count Saint Aulaire, on seeing Mr. Langerman taking possession of the Bennis house, went immediately to Sid-ben-Sliman, to whom he expressed his great surprise. He said it was impossible for him to remain in the "dépendance" of the Bennis house under the circumstances, and that he would immediately move to the French Vice-Consulate, and would cease to be the guest of the Moorish Government or to accept provisions from them. He cancelled his acceptance of invitations to some dinners given to him by the Court officials, and said he would report the matter to the French Minister.

Sid-ben-Sliman appeared much concerned at what had occurred, and said he would at once see the Sultan on the matter.

M. Saint Réné-Taillandier, who was evidently much annoyed with the Moorish Government, informed me that he had not yet heard the result of Sid-ben-Sliman's interview with the Sultan. He entirely approved Count Saint Aulaire's action in the matter, and was writing to Sid-ben-Sliman to say that he had no doubt that the Sultan had already given the necessary orders in the matter, but that he was instructing Count Saint Aulaire that, should Mr. Langerman be occupying Bennis house, he was to leave Fez at once and return to Tangier.

It is unfortunate that this incident should have arisen at the present moment, as it will render more difficult the negotiations between France and the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

P.S. *July* 18.—Since writing the above I have received a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, informing me that the incident is closed, so far as Count Saint Aulaire is concerned.

It appears that, after the interview between Count Saint Aulaire and Sid-ben-Sliman, repeated messages were sent to Mr. Langerman asking him to move to another house. Mr. Langerman, whilst expressing his readiness to do so, made no preparations to move. He was then invited to meet the Council of Ministers in the Palace, and, as soon as he left the Bennis house, porters, sent by the Moorish authorities, moved all his effects to another house. The Bennis house was then locked and the keys sent to Count Saint Aulaire, who thereupon returned to his former quarters in the "dépendance," and subsequently attended the dinner given by Sid-ben-Sliman.

Mr. Langerman was much annoyed on returning from the Palace to find the Bennis house locked; there was, however, no course open to him but to accept the house now offered to him.

H. E. W.

No. 290

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July* 26.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 16, 1904.

ON the 14th instant the French Minister held the annual reception in celebration of the national fête, and his speech on that occasion, though containing no important statement, deserves some attention, as it is the first time he has addressed his compatriots since the recognition of the preponderant interests of France in this country, and in it he explains the policy his Government intends to follow in Morocco, namely, to strengthen the Government and introduce reforms, whilst respecting the religion, customs, and

sentiments of the people, and in this work to seek the friendly co-operation of the Government.

I beg leave to inclose a cutting from the local French paper "Le Maroc," containing M. Saint-Réné Taillandier's speech.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 291.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 18, 1904.*

IN the afternoon of the 14th instant I received a note from Hadj Mohammed Torres, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, complaining that Mr. Harris intermeddles in the affairs of the tribes, and exposes himself to dangers by going out in the middle of the night and visiting dangerous districts, and requesting me to order him to move into the town. This letter caused me some surprise, as I knew that for some time past Mr. Harris has been unusually prudent.

That night I was shown a letter which had just been received from Beni M'sour, containing a warning that a body of eighty armed men were collected there with the object of seizing Mr. Harris in his house. The letter had every appearance of being *bonâ fide*, and the news it contained afforded me an explanation of the letter I had received from Sid Torres, who had evidently heard of the proposed attack, and wished to bring Mr. Harris into safety, and also provide beforehand grounds for disclaiming responsibility for what might occur.

I immediately took steps to have additional troops sent out to guard Mr. Harris, to whom I communicated by telephone the news I had received.

Mr. Harris informed me that he had himself received a warning two days before, and he subsequently learnt from the Askar who are stationed near his house that they had lately received instructions to take special precautions, and also that a passing tribesman had stopped to talk to some of them, and had warned them not to interfere if the house were attacked.

The following morning a further letter was received from another person in the Beni M'sour repeating the warning. The messenger who brought the letter stated that the ringleader was a well-known man of that tribe named Uld Pakash, who had quarrelled with Reissouli owing to the latter having refused to give him a share in the money paid for the liberation of Mr. Perdicaris and Mr. Varley. He had with him other malcontents from the tribes of Beni Aros and Beni Ider, as well as from his own tribe, and they had determined to capture a European merely as a means of extorting money.

As the tribesmen have friends in the town who keep them informed of all that occurs, I knew that they would hear that Mr. Harris' house was well guarded, and would not attempt any attack on it for the present, but I was anxious lest they might select some other victim from amongst the British subjects living outside the town; I accordingly sent messages to the Moorish authorities, requesting that every possible step be taken for their protection.

I communicated the substance of Sid Torres' letter to Mr. Harris, copy of whose reply, absolutely denying the allegations therein, I beg leave to transmit herewith.

I further have the honour to transmit translation of the letter I addressed to Sid Torres, communicating to him the substance of Mr. Harris' letter, and informing him that it is the duty of the Moorish Government to provide for the safety of British subjects residing here, and that it would be held responsible for anything that might befall them. I referred to the reports that further captures were to be attempted, and inquired whether I could rely upon the Moorish Government to secure the safety of British subjects, as otherwise I would have to report to His Majesty's Government, who will decide what steps should be taken for their protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

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* Not printed.

Inclosure 1 in No. 291.

Sid Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, 29 Rabia II, 1322 (July 14, 1904).*

IT is not hidden that the Englishman, Mr. Harris, carries on considerable intermeddling with the tribes, and goes to dangerous places, and leaves his house, which is outside the town, in the late hours of the night, exposing himself in places where disasters may happen to him, and many complaints have been made to me about this. I therefore trust you will issue stringent orders to him to come to the town to reside, and to discontinue from intermeddling with the kabilas, and not to go to places where he is not safe from the harm of their inhabitants, and that he should not leave his house after midnight (the middle of the night), so that he may be safe and secure. I hereby warn him, through you, so that if he continues doing as he does, and anything happens to him, the responsibility is upon himself, as the state of the present times is not hidden.

Awaiting your early reply.

May you remain, &c.
(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 291.

Mr. Harris to Mr. White.

Dear Mr. White, *Tangier, July 15, 1904.*

IN reply to your letter embodying contents of a despatch that you have received from Hadj Mohammed Torres, I deny the accusations which he makes against me. As to intermeddling in tribal affairs, I certainly do not do so, and since my capture last year I have even abandoned my former habit of allowing benighted mountaineers to spend the night at my house, and my servants have orders not to allow any tribesmen to enter my garden who are not properly authorized.

As to leaving my house at night, it is absolutely untrue. I have never, for a long time past, left my house at night, except on the one occasion when Sir A. Nicolson telephoned to me to come and see him on the night when Mr. Perdicaris was captured. I have been once or twice a little late in getting to my house of an evening, but only on one occasion, I believe, as late as 8·30 P.M. within the last few weeks. As to his statement that I go to dangerous places, I have never been anywhere at night, and in the daytime I have never been beyond my house in that direction, nor further than the house of Sid-el-Arbi Abarodi in the other, and never outside the immediate environs of Tangier.

But as Hadj Mohammed Torres seems to know so much more about my movements than I do myself, I trust that you will insist on his giving the details of these accusations—namely, the dangerous places I go to, the occasions on which I leave my house at night, and a few examples of intermeddling in tribal affairs. Until he supplies this information, I can only state that there is not one word of truth in his accusations.

As to coming to reside in town, I consider that, after the protestations of the Moorish Government that the force of soldiers which guards Tangier is amply sufficient to protect the interests of the European population, and as my house is situated within the circle of guards, there can be no possible necessity for me to leave my house, and I would be obliged if you would let Hadj Mohammed Torres know this, at the same time suggesting to him that the responsibility of my personal safety and security of my property rests entirely with the Moorish Government, and that, if he does not consider the existing precautions sufficient, he should see that further measures are taken.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) WALTER B. HARRIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 291.

Mr. White to Sid Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, 2 Jumad I, 1322 (July 16, 1904).*

I DULY received your Excellency's letter of the 29th Rabia II, in which you state that Mr. Harris "carries on considerable intermeddling with the tribes, goes to dangerous places, and leaves his house, which is outside the town, late at night, exposing himself in places where disaster may happen to him," and you request me to order him to desist from the above and to reside within the town, and to warn him that otherwise the responsibility for anything that may befall him will rest upon himself.

I have communicated the foregoing to Mr. Harris, who absolutely denies that he intermeddles with the tribes. He declares that he has never, for a long time past, left his house at night, except on the occasion of the capture of Mr. Perdicaris and Mr. Varley, when, at the request of His Majesty's Minister, he came to the Legation, and only on one occasion during the last few weeks has he returned to his house so late as 8·30 P.M. He declares, moreover, that he has never been to any dangerous place—in fact, for a long time past he has only been on the road between his house and the town, and to the mountain as far as the house of Sid-el-Arbi Abarodi, and also to the houses and gardens in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier. It appears, therefore, that your Excellency must have been misinformed, and I request you to furnish me with further particulars as to the occasions on which it is alleged that Mr. Harris has acted in the manner stated.

With regard to your request that he should reside within the town, Mr. Harris objects to leave his house, and I do not feel that I should be in any way justified in ordering him to do so, as your Excellency suggests, and I must protest against your Excellency's warning that the responsibility for anything that may befall him there will rest upon himself. Mr. Harris' house is within the limits of the guard posts, and, in any case, it is the duty of the Moorish authorities to see that all persons residing here are safe in their persons and property, and I must clearly inform your Excellency that the Moorish Government will be held responsible for anything that may befall Mr. Harris or any other British subject residing here, whether inside or outside the town walls. Should the Moorish Government be unable to guarantee the safety of British subjects residing outside the town, I request your Excellency to inform me, in order that I may report to His Majesty's Government, who will decide what steps should be taken to provide for their safety.

I have to add that information has reached me from several sources that a considerable number of armed men are collected in Beni M'sour with the intention, it is said, of following the example set by Reissouli, and attacking the house of Mr. Harris or of some other European, and securing a captive to be held to ransom. The question of the safety of Europeans here is therefore an urgent one, and I shall therefore be obliged if your Excellency will be good enough to inform me as soon as possible if I can rely upon the Moorish Government to secure it.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 292.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 119.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 18, 1904.*

MR. LEVISON, a British subject owning a property about 2 miles outside the town, called upon me this morning to report that an attack was made upon his house at about 11·30 o'clock last night. The Government guards were, however, happily on the alert, and, being fairly numerous, succeeded in driving off the assailants before they could approach the house.

I understand from one of the guards, whom I have questioned, that there were thirty or thirty-five men in the attacking party, who are believed to be hill tribesmen; but as it was a dark night, and none were captured, it is impossible to say where they came from.

The incident is not without a satisfactory feature, in that it tends to show that the guards are more reliable than they were thought to be, for not only did the guards on the spot do their duty, but those from neighbouring posts appear to have hurried to the spot on hearing the firing.

A great many shots were fired, but probably without effect, as the night was dark. None of the guards were wounded, though one had his clothes pierced by a ball.

I have addressed a note to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, bringing the matter to his notice, and again impressing on him the necessity of taking every possible step to secure the safety of residents here.

I beg leave to inclose herewith a translation of my letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 292.

Mr. White to Sid Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, 4 Jumad II, 1322 (July 18, 1904).*

WITH reference to the letter I addressed to your Excellency the day before yesterday on the subject of the safety of British subjects residing here, I have now to inform you that an attack was made last night on the house of the British subject Mr. Levison. Happily there were a considerable number of Askars on guard near there, and they were able to drive off the assailants, whom, I am informed, numbered about thirty or thirty-five, and were hill tribesmen: had the brigands selected for attack one of the houses on the hill, which are not so well guarded, the results might have been different. I feel it therefore to be my duty to again impress most strongly on your Excellency the necessity for providing a sufficient number of trustworthy guards for all the districts where Europeans are residing. It should be possible, by a proper system of patrols, to prevent bodies of armed tribesmen from approaching the immediate neighbourhood of the town.

May you rest.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 293.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 18, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a Shereefian letter was publicly read in the Mosque yesterday, appointing Kaïd Hamza-ben-Hima Governor of Tangier. This officer recently arrived here to take charge of the troops sent to guard the town, as reported in my despatch No. 102 of the 2nd instant.

As it appeared that Kaïd-ben-Hima had been given the whole Bashalic of Tangier and district, I sent to inquire of Sid Ghannam whether Reissouli was thereby deprived of the Government of the provinces which Sid Torres had guaranteed should be given to him by the Sultan.

Sid Ghannam replied that the Sultan had only granted Reissouli the two villages of Briesh and Zeenats, and that when Sid Torres reported to His Majesty in regard to the provinces demanded by Reissouli, His Majesty had replied that he could not agree to appoint him Governor over so large a district at present, but he held out hopes that this might be done later on if Reissouli in the meantime showed himself worthy thereof.

Sid Ghannam said that the Sultan's reply had been communicated to Reissouli, who was quite satisfied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 294.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July 19, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 114 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report that I learn from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke that the two Angera men in the Tetuan prison have been set at liberty.

These men had taken part in the attacks on Tetuan last year, and, like their fellow-tribesmen in the Tangier prison, have now been released on the demand of the tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 295.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 19, 1904.

THERE has been a considerable amount of intertribal raiding lately in the northern districts, and, so far as can be seen, the authorities are taking no steps to restore order.

The old feud between the Beni Hassen and the Gharb tribes still exists, notwithstanding the many attempts to bring about a settlement, and the former has recently made fresh raids on villages of the latter. The Beni Aros tribe, freed by Reissouli of the presence of the troops, are still raiding villages of the Gharbia, whilst, a short distance further south, the Khlot are robbing and burning the villages of the Tlig. The town of Alcazar is also not free from attack, a party of mountaineers having broken in on the night of the 13th instant to rob.

Coming to the more immediate neighbourhood of Tangier, some villages of the Fahs of Tangier have been raided by a band from the Beni M'sowar, and it is possible that the disturbances may spread, especially if there is truth in the report that some Beni M'sowar women, with their animals, have been seized in retaliation on their way home from Tangier market.

The southern districts are comparatively quiet, the men being all busy with an exceptionally heavy harvest. His Majesty's Consul at Daralbaida informs me, however, that it is probable that, once the harvest has been got in, there will be disturbances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 296.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 26.)

(No. 447.)
My Lord, *Paris, July* 25, 1904.

THE "Dépêche Coloniale" publishes the inclosed extract* from the Loan Contract said to have been signed between the Government of Morocco and certain banking firms, notably the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

The nominal amount of the loan is 62,500,000 fr. (2,500,000*l.*), represented by 125,000 bonds to bearer of 500 fr. (20*l.*) each, bearing interest at 5 per cent., and terminable in thirty-five years by means of seventy half-yearly drawings.

The punctual execution of the Contract is to be assured by the appointment of a representative of the bondholders, nominated by the contracting banks, and placed under the protection of the French Legation in Morocco. This official will be represented at each of the custom-houses by a delegate armed with powers enabling him to supervise the operations of the customs, and to take over, on behalf of the bondholders, 60 per cent. of the receipts, which it is estimated will suffice, on the average of the last four years, to secure the service of the loan. Provision is made for the increase of this proportion in case it should fall short of the requirements of the contracting banks.

The Contract will be notified by the Morocco Government to that of France, and registered at the French Legation at Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

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* Not printed.

No. 297.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 109. Confidential.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, July* 22, 1904.

SEÑOR Maura, the Prime Minister, arrived here yesterday to see the King prior to His Majesty's departure to-day, and has left for the South.

To those who questioned him on the subject of the Franco-Spanish negotiations respecting Morocco, he answered that M. Delcassé being about to take a short leave of absence, there was an arrest for the moment in them.

Nobody appears more anxious on the subject than the German Ambassador, who, it seems, though desirous to join his family in Germany, has orders, he says, to await the conclusion of the negotiations.

This would at first sight point to exceptional interest on the part of the German Emperor's Government in the question, but I venture to repeat that I believe it to be prompted by the fussy curiosity of timid agents rather than by serious political design.

I have in a few months been long enough in Spain to understand the remarkable dilatoriness of Spanish action, but neither my French colleague nor myself have any certain ground for explaining the present delay in concluding an Agreement so advantageous as the present appears to be for Spain.

The most influential person, in my opinion, at this Court perfectly agrees with me as to the danger of leaving the Morocco question pendant between France and Spain, and I am driven to the supposition—not of my own invention— that the injured vanity of Señor Leon y Castillo, who is trusted by the Queen, largely contributes to the delay in the understanding with France about Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 298.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, July* 27, 1904.

MOROCCO. Franco-Spanish negotiations.

The issue of the negotiations seems to cause M. Delcassé some anxiety. He says that the local tranquillity would be endangered if Spain's pretensions as to the liberty to be allowed her were admitted.

His Excellency insists that his concessions, which have been much greater than he was bound to grant, have only served to increase the demands of the Spanish Government.

Your Lordship's support and that of Sir E. Egerton are gratefully recognized by M. Delcassé.

No. 299.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July* 27, 1904.

PUBLIC security at Tangier.

The two French cruisers, "Galilée" and "Kléber," start to-day from Toulon *en route* for Tangier. The French Minister, in giving me this information, asked me if I could arrange for our cruiser to precede them here, saying he would be glad if it could be managed. If your Lordship sees no objection the "Minerva" might come here to-morrow and leave the day after the French cruisers arrive. It will not be necessary for the "Minerva" to be detained longer at Gibraltar, as the "Kléber" and "Galilée" will probably remain here for some time.

No. 300.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July 27.*)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 27, 1904.*

PUBLIC security at Tangier: My telegram No. 89 of the 23rd instant.

According to information I have received from the French Minister, a captain of the French Military Mission at Fez has been appointed by the Sultan to take charge of the infantry here; he has been instructed to recruit Algerians for the purpose of adding to the strength of the regiment.

Arrangements have also been made for selecting later on suitable men from this regiment with the object of forming a police force to be organized by the French Commissioners, who are expected here shortly.

No. 301.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 27, 1904.*

PUBLIC security at Tangier.

Your telegram No. 90 of to-day.

You may send for His Majesty's ship "Hermione" from Gibraltar, the "Mierva" not being available.

No. 302.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 85.)
Sir *Foreign Office, July 27, 1904.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 119 of the 18th instant, reporting an attack made upon Mr. Levison's house in the neighbourhood of Tangier, and I approve the note which you addressed to Sid Mohamed Torres, impressing upon him the necessity of securing the safety of European residents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 303.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 87.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 28, 1904.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 118 of the 16th instant, on the subject of a threatened attack by the Beni M'Sour tribe on Mr. Harris' house, and I approve the letter which you addressed to Cid Mohammed Torres in regard to the protection of British subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 304.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received July 29.*)

(No. 456.)
My Lord, *Paris, July 28, 1904.*

THE "Temps" publishes from the pen of a correspondent who has occasional access to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs the inclosed article on the affairs of Morocco.*

* Not printed.

After touching on the questions of the new loan and the Tangiers police, the writer comments on the negotiations between France and Spain. They are rendered delicate, he states, by a profound disagreement between the aims of the two Powers. The object of France is the re-establishment of the authority of the Sultan, and, in order that the result may prove a beneficial and lasting one, it is necessary to proceed with deliberation and caution. Spain, on the other hand, is thirsting for the establishment of her influence in Morocco in an immediate and conspicuous manner. The cast of mind of the Spanish Premier, Señor Maura, and of M. San Pedro, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who are both lawyers, is not of a kind to facilitate an understanding. Notwithstanding these difficulties, a formula of agreement has been reached as regards the geographical limits of the respective spheres of the two countries. Spain, however, is pressing for an immediate declaration on this point, whereas France desires to fix a time limit, previously to which matters should remain territorially as they are. The negotiation, therefore, lingers on, and it is impossible to predict the outcome.

This morning's "Figaro," alluding apparently to the inclosed article, asserts that recent disclosures on the state of the negotiation are not to be trusted, and that both Señor Maura and Señor San Pedro continue to show a conciliatory spirit.

I may add that the language employed by the author of the article in the "Temps" is singularly like that employed by M. Delcassé in a conversation which I had with him yesterday afternoon, there being several phrases in which the construction of the sentences, as well as the ideas which they convey, seem, as far as my memory serves me, to be identical with those used to me by his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 305.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, July 29, 1904.*

MOROCCO. I have the honour to report, with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 31, that the importance of a speedy conclusion of the negotiations with France appears to be appreciated by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency dwells, however, upon the fact that secret clauses present legal difficulties, but he does not seem to be without hope of their being surmounted.

No. 306.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 29.)

(No. 92.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 29, 1904.*

MOVEMENTS of Pretender: My despatch No. 129 of the 24th instant.

The Pretender is reported to be now at Kasbah-el-Ayoun, which place was evacuated on his approach by the Sultan's forces. I am informed by the French Minister that he received a telegram last night from Oujdah to the effect that the officer in command of the Sultan's troops stationed at El Ayoun had arrived there, and fears were expressed that Bou Amama would join forces with the Pretender.

No. 307.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 410.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, July 29, 1904.*

THE French Ambassador told me to-day that M. Delcassé had now come to terms with the Spanish Ambassador in regard to the position of the two Powers in Morocco, except upon a single point.

M. Delcassé had proposed that Spain should agree to an Article identical with Article 3 in our Secret Agreement, which runs as follows:—

"She would also have to undertake not to alienate the whole or a part of the territories placed under her authority or in her sphere of influence."

The Spanish Government considered that it would be derogatory to their dignity to accept such an obligation, and proposed an alternative running as follows:—

"If at any time Spain decided to alienate or cede the whole or part of the territories indicated in Articles 1, 2, and 3, she would, on equal conditions, give the preference to France, whether it was a question of a definitive cession or a temporary one."

M. Delcassé had replied that it was impossible for him to agree to this proposal, which was inconsistent with the Agreement at which he had arrived with His Majesty's Government, and he would be glad to know how I regarded the matter.

I replied that I certainly could not approve the adoption of the Spanish proposal without consulting my colleagues, and I felt little doubt that they would disapprove of it. I could not see that it was beneath the dignity of the Spanish Government to accept the stipulation which the French Government had seen its way to accept, and the stipulation was itself one of great importance.

I promised his Excellency that I would telegraph to Sir E. Egerton and ask him to impress this view of the case upon the Spanish Government. His Excellency readily accepted my proposal.

I subsequently addressed to His Majesty's Minister at Madrid the telegram of which a copy is attached to this despatch.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 308.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, July 29, 1904.*

I HAVE been informed to-day by the French Ambassador that the Spanish Government consider it beneath their dignity to agree to an Article identical with Article 3 of our Secret Agreement, and that they have put forward the following alternative:—

"Si à un moment quelconque l'Espagne se décidait à aliéner ou à céder tout ou partie des territoires désignés aux Articles 1, 2, et 3, elle donnerait à condition égale la préférence à la France, qu'il s'agisse d'une cession définitive ou à titre temporaire."

M. Cambon has informed the Spanish Ambassador of his inability to accept this proposal, as it is inconsistent with the Anglo-French Agreement, and has expressed a desire to be acquainted with my views in the matter.

I replied that I could not approve the Spanish proposal without a reference to my colleagues, and that I scarcely doubted but that they would disapprove of it.

You should inform the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and impress upon his Excellency that I entirely fail to see that it is derogatory to the dignity of the Spanish Government to agree to the stipulation, which has been accepted by the French Government, or in what respect the alternative Article they propose is more favourable to them. Say that I regard the stipulation as originally worded as being of great importance, and express the hope that they will find it possible to agree to it.

(Confidential.)
It is obviously undesirable that France should have a preferential claim to the Spanish sphere, in case Spain should be unable to maintain her hold over it.

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* No. 308.

No. 309.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 93.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 30, 1904.*

PUBLIC security at Tangier: Your Lordship's telegram No. 43 of the 27th instant.

His Majesty's ship "Hermione" leaves to-morrow morning, as the two French cruisers, "Kléber" and "Galilée" arrived here yesterday evening.

No. 310.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 94.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 30, 1904.*

AT the request of Sid Torres and Sid Ghannam the foreign Representatives held a meeting this morning. These Moorish officials then communicated to us a Memorandum, which they had received from the Court, to the effect that the Government had been obliged to raise a loan in consequence of the heavy expense entailed, owing to the disturbed state of the country, adding that money was also required for the payment of claims, formation of an army, &c., and that it was proposed to meet these expenses by increasing the export and import duties; it was therefore desired that the subject should be negotiated with the Representatives by a special Commissioner appointed by the Sultan.

We requested that a copy of this Memorandum should be communicated to us, and confined ourselves to taking note of the communication.

No. 311.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 30.)

(No. 95.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, July 30, 1904.*

PRETENDER: My telegram No. 92 of the 29th instant.

It appears that the Pretender did not stop at Kasbah-el-Ayoun, but continued his march on to Tseluan, close to Melilla, for the purpose of collecting men. He is now returning towards Oujdah, according to information received by the Spanish Minister.

No. 312.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received July 31.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, July 31, 1904.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 32 of the 29th July, on the subject of Morocco.

Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs instantly abandoned the suggestion made by Señor Leon y Castillo for alteration of the stipulation which forbids the alienation of the sphere allotted to Spain, upon learning that your Lordship disapproved of it.

He hopes, on the other hand, that your Lordship will assist him to oppose a proposal put forward by France that the exercise of the duties of her future sphere of influence should be abandoned by Spain for fifteen years. He said that this would give the control of the coast for that period to France.

His Excellency has sent instructions to the Duc de Mandas to speak on this subject to your Lordship.

There was, I said, an evident misunderstanding which might be cleared up by your Lordship.

(The following is confidential.)

It is necessary that reference be made to your Lordship in order that the Spanish Minister, who is apparently extremely suspicious of the intentions of France, may be reassured. From his Excellency's language I trust that this difficulty may be the last

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No. 313.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 21, 1904.

WITH reference to the second paragraph in your Lordship's despatch No. 368 of the 8th instant to His Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, I have the honour to report that two out of the eight Delegates who arrived with M. Regnault, as reported in my despatch No. 103 of the 2nd instant, are of Spanish nationality. They are, I understand, to be appointed to the custom-houses at Tetuan and Saffi respectively, the other six Delegates, who are all French, being distributed amongst the six remaining ports of Morocco, the receipts of all of which have been assigned in guarantee of the loan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 314.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 22, 1904.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's despatch No. 5 of the 9th January last regarding the suspension of the further issue of the depreciated Moorish coinage, I have the honour to report that Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres recently sent for the four gentlemen who hold the coinage contracts, and informed them that the Government desired the deliveries under the contracts to be proceeded with, at the rate of 1,200 kilos. of silver per month by each of the contractors, commencing next month.

I understand that the two French and the German contractors agreed to comply with this request, but that the British contractor replied that, a considerable sum being owing to him for the coin already delivered under his contract, he could not proceed further until the amount had been paid.

The total value of silver coin still to be delivered under the four contracts amounts approximately, I am told, to nearly 7,000,000 dollars. If placed gradually in circulation it is hoped that the rates of exchange will not be affected to any very great extent, and I do not anticipate a recurrence of the disastrous depreciation of this coinage which affected trade so seriously last year.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 315.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 126.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 23, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98 of the 30th ultimo, regarding the measures to be adopted for the better security of Europeans at Tangier. I have the honour to report that the French Minister has informed me that Sub-Lieutenant Ledira, a native Algerian officer in a regiment of Tirailleurs, who has been at Fez for some time as a member of the French Military Mission, has been commissioned by the Sultan to organize a force of Field Artillery at Tangier to act in concert with the other troops in protecting this neighbourhood against the lawless tribesmen.

M. Saint-René Taillandier observed that Lieutenant Ledira is an energetic and

competent officer, who has seen much service in Algeria as a non-commissioned officer. He is held in high estimation by the Moors, and rendered valuable services last year when he accompanied Sid-el-Menebhi on the Taza campaign. His appointment, therefore, is not as likely to give rise to comment as would that of an officer brought direct from Algeria for the purpose.

M. Saint-René Taillandier expects him to arrive at any moment, as he left Fez on the 15th or 16th instant. With him are some Moorish non-commissioned officers who have been appointed to assist him in training a small force to be selected from the garrison artillery here. The garrison artillery itself, which is really of no importance, will be left in charge of the Moorish officer now in command.

The French Minister has further informed me that he is expecting the arrival during the next few days of a Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner of Police, who will be both Frenchmen. For the present they will be merely attached to the Legation and have under them a small police force consisting of native Algerians whom M. Saint-René Taillandier wishes, if possible, to select from among the many Algerians already residing in this country.

There have for some time been several Spanish policemen attached to the Spanish Consulate. It is, therefore, possible that the establishment of this small French police force will not cause much excitement, though at present any move of the French is regarded with suspicion. Once established, it will become the nucleus from which can gradually be evolved an efficient Algerian police force under French control.

I gather from the French Minister that the Sultan has lately been somewhat less uncompromising in his rejection of French advice and assistance. Certain concrete proposals have, I understand, been transmitted to Count Saint Aulaire for communication to the Moorish Government, with instructions to obtain their consent to as much thereof as he may be able, and then to return to Tangier, leaving the Algerian Interpreter, M. Ben Ghabrit, at Fez. Mr. Saint-René Taillandier will himself treat with the Moorish Government regarding the points not previously settled when he visits the Sultan in the autumn.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 316.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 127.)

My Lord, *Tangier, July* 22, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 109 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that the messenger sent by Sid Hadj-el-Mehedi-el-Menebhi to the Sultan with a letter announcing his arrival at Tangier has returned without any reply, His Majesty having caused him to be informed that he need not wait.

I have heard from various sources that the Sultan is much annoyed at Sid-el-Menebhi having visited Paris and having been received with so much honour there, and also with the reception given to him on his return here, for which his Majesty holds Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres to blame. His Excellency has in consequence received a very severe letter, in which the Sultan censures him for the honour shown to Sid-el-Menebhi on his departure for the East and again on his return, complaining that he had been treated as though he were a Grand Vizier, whereas he was a mere private individual. His Majesty further reproaches Sid Torres for his neglect of his duties of recent years, observing that, owing to his great age and long services, this had hitherto been overlooked, but that latterly he had permitted his son to assume authority and intermeddle, and that his Excellency was in a great measure to blame for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs in this country.

I have not been able to obtain any direct information as to the exact contents of this letter from any one who has seen it, but I have reason to believe that its general purport is as above stated.

I understand that Sid Torres has replied that Sid-el-Menebhi is a personal friend of his, as his father and grandfather were before him, and, therefore, on his return from his voyage he went to meet him, as was natural, and some soldiers accompanied him. He adds that if his conduct does not meet with the Sultan's approval, he begs that His Majesty will accept his resignation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 317.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 128. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 24, 1904.

SID EL-HADJ-EL-MEHEDI-EL-MENEBHI has informed Mr. Irwin that he has received news from Fez, which he considers trustworthy, that the Sultan intends very shortly to move to Rabat in consequence of the southern tribes not having responded to His Majesty's call upon them for further levies of troops. He considers that this would be a fatal mistake on His Majesty's part, and would lead to most serious consequences, for to reach Rabat the Sultan would have to pass by the Zemur and Beni Hassen tribes, whom he would have to buy over by the payment of very large sums. His Majesty has practically no troops with him, and apparently is unable to collect any considerable force. He would have to take with him such troops as he has, and would thus leave Fez itself unprotected; and at the first menace of attack that town would throw its gates open to the Pretender.

Some time ago the French Minister mentioned to me that Count St. Aulaire had reported a rumour that the Sultan proposed to move to Rabat, but no confirmation of this report has since been received either by him or by myself, nor have I heard the rumour mentioned in any other quarter. I can hardly believe that the Sultan can really intend to leave Fez for the present, for His Majesty must know that to quit Fez at the present time without leaving a strong force to maintain his authority there would be absolutely suicidal. His Majesty cannot have forgotten the disastrous consequences of his making a similar move the year before last against the advice which was tendered to him, and would hardly again commit the same blunder so soon after.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 318.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 24, 1904.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that, the Pretender having shown signs of fresh activity, he sent a messenger to visit his camp and bring reliable news as to his position and plans. The messenger returned to Fez on the 13th instant, having left the Pretender at Kasbah M'sun on the 9th. His report was to the following effect:—

The Pretender left Taza with about 200 horsemen and 300 foot. He took with him all his possessions, leaving nothing of value at Taza. He had twenty-five mule loads of silver specie and one mule load of gold, which would amount to about 200,000 dollars, forty mule loads of cartridges, and a number of mules loaded with tents and baggage.

On reaching Maknassa his force had increased to 1,000 men, which number was again doubled by the time he left that place. At Kasbah M'sun he had with him on the 9th instant about 3,000 horsemen and some 500 foot, more than half of the latter being deserters from the Sultan's army. On his way back to Taza the messenger continually met further bodies of men on their way to join him, so that it seems probable that at the present time he has a considerable force collected. It appears that in calling upon the tribes for levies he asked only for mounted men, stating that he did not desire many foot soldiers. He has not drawn any men from the tribes on the road between Fez and Taza, leaving them to oppose any force the Sultan may send out. He is doubtless well aware that the Sultan is practically without troops, and that he need not take any special precautions against the possibility of an attack on Taza from that direction.

The Pretender was said to have seven cannon with him, but the messenger only saw one mortar and three muzzle-loading cannon. The men are armed with rifles of various patterns, many of which, as well as the ammunition, are smuggled on the Riff coast.

The Pretender's revenue is derived from tributary gifts and presents, fines, ransoms, &c., sale of loot, and customs duties levied by his Administrators at the Moorish lines at Melilla. The revenue derived by the Sultan from this custom-house used to be estimated at 1,600 dollars per month.

It is believed at Taza that the Pretender will stake his all on this year's campaign, knowing that, if unsuccessful now, he has nothing to hope for in the future. It is said that he received letters from Bu Amama informing him that the French were in alliance with the Sultan's forces at Ujdah, that Sid Allal of Ulad Sidi Sheikh had joined them, and that he (Bu Amama) was in urgent need of help, as otherwise he would be forced to make terms for himself. It was, therefore, supposed that the Pretender would march towards Ujdah as soon as he had collected a sufficiently strong force, in order to co-operate with Bu Amama against the Sultan's troops under Rakina and Kaid-el-Baghdadi.

The reports that reach Tangier from the Ujdah district are not satisfactory, a serious feature being the non-payment of the troops, whose pay is said to be more than four months in arrear. On the other hand, the French Minister informs me that his reports are to the effect that the position of the Sultan's forces at Ujdah is favourable, though the non-payment of the troops is certainly a serious feature. According to a telegram received last night from Ujdah by M. Saint René Taillandier, the Pretender is still at Kasbah-el-Msun.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 319.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 113. Confidential.)
(Decypher despatch.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, July* 29, 1904.

ON the 25th July I learned that M. Delcassé had informed Spanish Ambassador, on his return from San Sebastian, that he would defer leaving Paris for his Province if he could see hope of concluding the present negotiations respecting Morocco.

I was afraid from what I gathered that on the part of Spanish Government there was insistence on the publication of the understanding at a fixed date, and a disposition to insist unduly on what the Minister termed the "rights" of Spain.

To-day I asked Minister for Foreign Affairs if M. Delcassé were still in Paris, and his Excellency replied in the affirmative that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs was awaiting the answer from Rome on the pending ecclesiastical difficulty.

On further questioning his Excellency, I was glad to learn that he was not without hope of a speedy arrangement being come to on the Morocco question. He entirely agreed with me as to the necessity for this, in the interest of general tranquillity, and explained that the difficulty about the publication was a constitutional one, the King could conclude no Treaty with a secret clause. On my saying that this hindrance might be got over, he said that though he could not take it on his own responsibility to do so, he thought that there might, in view of the great importance of the result, be a solution, and he had therefore submitted the matter to the Council of Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 320.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 96.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 1, 1904.

MENEBHI. I am informed by Mr. Carleton, British Consular Agent at Alcazar, that the Governor of that town has placed seals on the doors of Sid Hadj el Mehedi el Menebhi's houses at Alcazar and confiscated all his property. The Governor was acting on instructions received from the Court.

No. 321.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 1, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 96 of to-day.

Sid Hadj el Mehedi el Menebhi is much concerned at the news which has reached him from Alcazar; he has just been to see me, and says that he is afraid that the Government may have sent similar orders to other places, where he has very valuable properties. He considers that a great affront has been put upon him, and naturally feels it keenly.

I propose to address to Sid Ben Sliman a strong letter, in which I will demand the immediate release of Sid el Menebhi's property, and point out that he is under British protection.

No. 322.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 2, 1904.

THE Sultan and Cid Menebhi.

Your telegram No. 97 of yesterday.

You should strongly impress upon the Sultan that his treatment of Menebhi is quite indefensible, and, that if he persists in it, he will incur the displeasure of His Majesty's Government, who promised British protection to Menebhi in recognition of the public services rendered by him.

No. 323.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 2, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 97 of yesterday.

I have received a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez in which he reports that, though Sid Menebhi's house, in which his wife is living, has not actually been seized, guards have been placed there to prevent any of his property being removed.

Mr. Macleod also reports that the property of Jaai is probably going to be seized, as his brother was sent for by the Governor of Fez and bound over to guarantee that whenever required his house would be surrendered to the Moorish authorities. Jaai accompanied Sid Menebhi on his recent tour, and is his right-hand man. At Sid Menebhi's request Sir A. Nicolson some time ago granted him British protection; this was done secretly, and no notice of it was given to the Moorish authorities. Jaai has now requested me to warn the Moorish Government not to touch his property, and to give them notice of his protection. As he is neither an employé of a British merchant nor of the Legation, the Moorish Government will in all probability contest our right to afford him protection; nevertheless, he has relied on this protection, and unless some steps are taken his property will undoubtedly be seized.

I might inform the Moorish Government that he is protected under Article XVI of the Convention of Madrid, 1880; if this is not advisable, I should be grateful to receive your Lordship's instructions as to what course should be adopted.

No. 324.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 109.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 3, 1904.

THE Spanish Ambassador spoke to me again to-day upon the subject of the negotiations which have for some time been proceeding between the French and Spanish Governments as to the position of Spain in Morocco. He told me that the

French Government had proposed that Spain should not be at liberty to commence the process of "peaceful penetration," even in those districts with which she was most concerned, until after the lapse of a long period, say fifteen or twenty years. The Spanish Government was far from desiring to resort to precipitate action in Morocco, but they resented this indefinite postponement of the realization of their hopes. I told his Excellency that I could not help thinking that the French and Spanish Governments had been at cross purposes. I had certainly understood from M. Cambon that it had been clearly understood that at certain points Spain was to be allowed to assert herself at once, although it was—and in my opinion very properly—desired to postpone as long as possible, and perhaps for ever, such a disintegration of the Moorish Kingdom as would lead to the partition of the country between France and Spain.

Later in the afternoon I mentioned the subject to M. Cambon, who entirely confirmed the view which I had expressed. He told me that M. Delcassé had found the Spanish Minister unwilling to accept any arrangement which did not hold out to Spain the prospect of entering into possession of the Spanish sphere of influence within a period, the duration of which could be announced. M. Delcassé had strongly objected to such a premature "liquidation," and it was this which had led the Spanish Government to propose that they should be allowed to announce that after the lapse of fifteen years they would be entitled to claim the reversion. The policy of the French Government was to avoid a partition of the country, and to render the process of "peaceful penetration," either upon the Spanish or upon the French side, as gradual and unobtrusive as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 325.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 100.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 3, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 98 of yesterday.

It would appear that all the Moorish authorities at the ports have received instructions to prevent Sid Menebhi from leaving the country. It is also said that orders have been given to arrest him, but I think it doubtful that this would be attempted at Tangier.

It appears that the Court has issued orders that an embargo be laid on all Sid Menebhi's property throughout Morocco with the exception of that at Tangier.

No. 326.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 4, 1904.

SUPPOSED intentions of Moorish Government on property of Sid Menebhi's intendant.

Your telegram No. 98 of to-day.

Sir A. Nicolson will endeavour to arrange privately the case of Menebhi's intendant.

You should, therefore, direct His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez to ask the Moorish Government privately to take no action with regard to the man or his property until he receives a communication from Sir A. Nicolson.

No. 327.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 6.)

(No. 115.)

My Lord, *San Sebastian, July* 31, 1904.

I SAW Señor San Pedro to-day and spoke to him in the sense of the instructions of your Lordship's telegram No. 32 received yesterday, on the subject of a change proposed by the Spanish negotiator in Paris respecting Morocco.

I told his Excellency that your Lordship had learnt that Señor Leon y Castillo had proposed to substitute—instead of a formal assent to the provisions of Articles 4 and 7 of the Anglo-French Declaration of the 8th April last, with the engagement not to alienate all or a portion of the territories placed under its authority or in its sphere of influence—an Article stating that should Spain decide to alienate or cede the whole or part of the territories indicated in Articles 1, 2, or 3, she would on equal conditions give preference to France, whether it was a question of a definitive cession or a temporary one.

That your Lordship could not understand that it should be incompatible with the dignity of Spain to accept the engagement to which France has assented, nor that the Article proposed by Señor Leon y Castillo would be more favourable to the Spanish Government.

That I was charged by your Lordship to declare that you attach the highest importance to the original text of the Article, and to express your Lordship's hope that the Government of His Catholic Majesty would find it possible to accept it.

His Excellency answered that in compliance with your Lordship's wishes the proposal—a mere incident in the course of Señor Leon y Castillo's negotiation—has been dropped. It was made for no purpose but for mutual facility of minor exchanges—the occasion arising, but from the moment that England objected the Spanish Government abandoned it.

He had informed the Duke of Mandas of this, and had also instructed him on the subject of a proposed French modification of the original agreement to which he most strongly objected.

M. Delcassé proposed, in view of the difficulty of carrying out the arrangements under the agreement which it is hoped may be arrived at, that Spain should for a period of fifteen years (his first proposal was thirty) abandon the exercise of her influence in the zone allotted to her, and France was thus given the control of the African coast for that period.

This, I said, was new to me, and I thought there must be some misunderstanding which might be cleared up; I had no reason to think the French Government harboured any sinister design, but were only anxious to avoid disturbances and bloodshed, and were deeply impressed with the danger of the position. An immense number of minor matters had no doubt to be arranged, but these could be settled as they arose without attempting to settle them now.

His Excellency trusted that your Lordship, as on previous occasions, might be willing and able to put this difficulty right, and he left me under the impression that if it were got over, the arrangement might be concluded shortly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 328.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 6.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)

My Lord, *San Sebastian, August* 1, 1904.

I SAW the French Ambassador to-day, on his return from France, and I alluded to the point to which Señor San Pedro called my attention yesterday, viz., the proposal of the French that for fifteen years they should alone exercise certain duties in the districts allotted to the Spanish sphere of influence.

I said that Señor San Pedro objected strongly to a fixed term, and I understood his objection, and therefore trusted that some expedient might be found which whilst

providing from the first against misunderstanding and friction between the officials of the two Powers would not excite the Moorish susceptibilities and local fanaticism.

It seemed to me best not to attempt to settle and define too much, but to agree on the main lines and leave the minor matters to friendly arrangement as they occurred.

M. Cambon appeared to agree with me, and I could not gainsay him when he said the dangers for the Spaniards of delay are very great; an outbreak (such as that at Alexandra) might occur at any time, and the Spanish Government would be unwise if they ignored the urgency of their obtaining a position secured by Treaty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 329.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 6.)

(No. 470.)

My Lord, *Paris, August* 5, 1904.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs has more than once proclaimed from the Tribune of the Chamber of Deputies that the policy of France in Morocco is one of peaceful penetration, founded on an understanding with the Sultan who, though weak and irresolute, is still the nearest approach to a permanent authority in the country.

In opposition to this view, M. Jaurès and some of his friends on the Extreme Left of the Chamber of Deputies have advocated the establishment of friendly relations with the tribes in revolt against the Sultan, in the belief that the pacification of Morocco could be more easily achieved in this manner than by any endeavour to strengthen the central power and reduce the rebels to subjection.

In an article in this month's "National Review," M. Étienne, Vice-President of the Chamber and chief of the Colonial group, has unreservedly taken sides with the Government on this question, and your Lordship will see from the inclosed article extracted from the "Temps," that his way of stating the argument is fully approved by that newspaper which, in matters of foreign affairs is held to represent the views of M. Delcassé. The writer states that notwithstanding all that has been said by the prophets of evil as to the impracticability of the task which the Government has undertaken, there is good reason to hope in time for a successful result, and that, as Tunis shows a decided advance on Algeria, so Morocco may well prove in the end and an improvement on Tunis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 330.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 6.)

(No. 41.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *San Sebastian, August* 5, 1904.

MOROCCO: Negotiations between France and Spain.

Referring to my telegram No. 39 of the 31st July.

As I had reason to hope that the postponement of the proposal for the abandonment of the exercise of certain duties by Spain for fifteen years would be agreed to by the French Government, I offered, in a friendly and private manner, the advice to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs that he should propose that the moment of the application of the present Convention and its details should be fixed by a later Agreement.

It was, I insisted, urgent that the Convention should be speedily signed.

Señor Rodriguez San Pedro seemed to concur in this view.

No. 331.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 27, 1904.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that from the principal Fez merchants engaged in the Tafilelt trade he learns that goods are beginning to enter that district in considerable quantities from Algeria, and that French coin is now gradually replacing Spanish and even Moorish coin there. The people of Tafilelt are realizing the advantages to be derived by establishing a commerce across the Algerian frontier, and the feeling of hostility to the French has apparently in a great measure subsided, the frontier districts being quiet.

The disturbed state of the Ait Yusi district, through which the Fez–Tafilelt road passes, renders the transport of merchandize from Fez to Tafilelt more dangerous and more costly, for the merchants either must pay heavy "conduct money" to secure the safety of their goods, or send them the longer and not very safe road viâ Beni M'gild, or else by sea to Mogador and on viâ Marrakesh. This naturally tends to encourage the trade through Algeria, which French merchants are naturally doing their best to push, merchants at Fez having received quotations from French merchants for goods delivered at Ain Sefra, which appears to be the furthest point to which the railway is as yet open for commercial purposes.

I understand that the principal Fez merchants, who have considerable dealings with the Court, hesitate to send their goods to Tafilelt viâ Algeria, for fear of giving offence to the Moorish Government, who would thereby lose the customs dues thereon.

This information is interesting as showing the success which is attending the policy of pacific penetration in a region which a short time since was very hostile to the French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 332.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 28, 1904.

THE French Minister called upon me yesterday to inform me that he had received news from his Government that the first-class armoured cruiser "Kléber" and the third-class cruiser "Galilée" were leaving Toulon for Tangier that day, and would, he thought, probably arrive here to-morrow or the day after. These vessels will remain here some time, their object being the protection of Europeans, and also, indirectly, to maintain pressure on the Moorish Government to facilitate their acceptance of the various proposals of the French Government.

M. Saint-René Taillandier said that a good effect would be produced if these cruisers could be preceded by an English man-of-war, and he expressed the hope that I would arrange for a cruiser from Gibraltar to come to Tangier and remain here until after the arrival of the "Kléber" and "Galilée."

Having obtained your Lordship's sanction to this arrangement, I have been in communication with the Admiral Superintendent at Gibraltar, and His Majesty's ship "Hermione" will arrive at Tangier this afternoon. I propose to retain her here until the day after the arrival of the French ships, should there be no objection on the part of the naval authorities. After that date there will, in my opinion, be no longer any necessity for keeping a man-of-war at Gibraltar for the protection of British subjects here. The system of guards organized by Ben Hima is apparently working well, and with the additional protection afforded by the presence in the bay of two French cruisers there will, I think, be no further cause for anxiety. An occasional visit, however, from any British man-of-war that may happen to be at Gibraltar might, perhaps, help still further to allay the apprehensions of British residents here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 333.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 28, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 126 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report that the French Minister has informed me that Count Saint Aulaire has obtained the Sultan's consent to accept the assistance of French officers in organizing a small force of troops for securing order and security in Tangier and its neighbourhood, His Majesty, however, expressed a strong desire that the French officers appointed for this purpose be selected from those composing the French Military Mission. M. Saint-René Taillandier observed that this arrangement saves the *amour propre* of the Sultan, and at the same time has the advantage that the employment of Frenchmen already in the country will create less comment than would the arrival of French officers from abroad. On the other hand it would not really be any restriction, as it will be a simple matter to pass through the French Military Mission any officer it may be desired to employ here.

In addition to Sub-Lieutenant Sedira, who will have charge of the artillery or machine-gun section of the Tangier regiment, a French Captain now at Fez has been appointed to the regiment. He will not have the command, which will remain nominally with the Moorish "Agha" or Colonel, with whom he will be associated, the Colonel presumably receiving private instructions to follow the advice the French Captain may give him. Some Algerian non-commissioned officers have also been appointed to the regiment, and its numbers will be increased by the recruiting of Algerians resident in the country.

The Sultan has also consented to the eventual formation of a police force under the French Commissioner and Sub-Commissioner, who will shortly arrive. The body of the force will be selected from the men of the Tangier regiment, and will consist of Algerians and Moors, the former being probably the predominant factor.

There are great numbers of Algerians already in Morocco, so no difficulty will be experienced in obtaining as many men as may be required, and the French should be able from these small beginnings gradually to organize a well-trained body of men who would be able to render useful services to the Sultan, and His Majesty may well then be encouraged to extend the system to other parts of his dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 334.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 30, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 128 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that news from private sources recently received from Fez tend to confirm the rumours of the Sultan's intention to leave that town for Rabat; indeed, His Majesty himself told Kaïd Sir H. Maclean a few days ago that he did not think he would be at Fez in a few months' time, though His Majesty did not mention where he proposed to go.

His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reported on the 21st instant that a camp had been pitched on the south side of the town; Mr. Macleod, however, believed that this had been done merely to create an impression on the tribes, as there were not enough soldiers at Fez to fill the tents. It is possible, also, that, if the Sultan really intends to go to Rabat, the camp has been pitched on the other side of Fez, to disguise His Majesty's intentions.

Sid-el-Menebhi told me yesterday he had just received letters from persons in the Sultan's entourage informing him that it was believed that His Majesty would go to Rabat very shortly, the impression being that His Majesty considered his position at Fez was becoming untenable, owing to the refusal of the southern tribes to send the contingents of men that had been called for. Sid-el-Menebhi considered the situation very serious, being convinced that if the Sultan leaves Fez that town would proclaim another Sultan, whilst the southern tribes are also now ill disposed towards His Majesty, and would give him no assistance.

I trust, however, that the Sultan may be dissuaded from his intention, as all his Ministers will be opposed to his leaving Fez, and the French Minister would probably take steps to persuade His Majesty to remain in that town, as in speaking to me on the subject a short time since, M. Saint-René Taillandier observed that the Sultan "must not be allowed" to leave Fez unless a strong force is left there, and that, in the present circumstances, would be an impossibility, as His Majesty has not got the men available.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 335.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 134.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 30, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 122 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to report that some of the intertribal quarrels therein referred to appear to have been satisfactorily settled, and peace has been restored in the districts near Tangier. Though, however, at peace among themselves, the state of effervescence continues in regard to the reported intentions of the French, and the arrival of the French cruisers has tended somewhat to increase the excitement, as it is believed that they have conveyed French troops to be disembarked here, and wild rumours are current among them that other men-of-war are proceeding to the various ports to disembark troops. However, as time passes and the cruisers are seen to remain here without landing any soldiers, or taking other action, the excitement caused by their arrival will doubtless gradually subside.

The feeling caused among the country people by the appointment of French Delegates at the custom-houses does not appear to diminish, and meetings of the tribes have been held to discuss the steps to be taken to bring about their withdrawal, and to prevent the French from obtaining a footing in the country.

Naturally the simplest remedy that has suggested itself to the tribes is the capture of some Europeans. I understand also that it has been proposed to pay off the loan by private contributions from all the tribes and towns. It is difficult, however, to obtain reliable information, and to sift out the truth from the numberless rumours afloat.

The tribes naturally lay the blame for the present position on the Sultan, who is held to have sold his country to the French, and I fear His Majesty is very unpopular throughout the country.

All reports received from the south agree in stating that serious disturbances will break out very shortly, and an important symptom is the fact that, though it has been an exceptionally heavy harvest, the natives are carefully storing their grain instead of sending it into the ports.

Sid-el-Menebhi has shown me letters he has received from a number of tribes in the south complaining bitterly of their treatment, and asking him to remedy it, these letters being written in the belief that he was proceeding to the Court, and would have influence with the Sultan as formerly. Sid-el-Menebhi stated that the Sultan has reverted to the former custom of selling the posts of Governors, carrying the abuse still further in that tribes are broken up to augment the number of posts to sell, and the new Governor scarcely taking up the post he has bought before another arrives, who has purchased the same post for a larger sum.

The tribes resent this sub-division of their territory, and the appointment of men as their Governor whom they do not wish to accept, and who at once endeavour to recover from them the sum paid for the post. The new Governors have already been attacked in some districts, and the discontent being general, it is believed that there will be serious trouble. Two or three large country markets have recently been broken up, all the goods being raided. These attacks upon markets are a symptom of a general spirit of lawlessness and want of authority, and they are apt to give rise to reprisals on the part of tribes who have suffered loss thereby.

A point which must not be lost sight of is that, should there be extensive disturbances, it is possible, with the rumours that are general throughout the country as to the intentions of the French in this country, that the rising may assume an anti-Christian character, and it may become necessary to take steps for the protection of Europeans at the various ports. I trust that this may not be so, but I think it my

duty, at this early date, to point out the possibility of it, though I do not consider that there is any necessity to take steps at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 336.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 30, 1904.

It has been very difficult to obtain information regarding the Pretender's movements since the 13th instant, when, as reported in my despatch No. 129 of the 24th instant, he was still at Kasbah M'sun. Many reports have reached me from various quarters, and some of them, though apparently contradicted by news received by the French Minister from Oujdah, have subsequently proved to be correct.

As far as I can ascertain, the Pretender remained at Kasbah-el-M'sun till the 17th instant, and then made a rapid and unexpected descent upon the Howara tribe, destroying their villages and looting their property before they had time to collect together to oppose him; they are a large and powerful tribe, well supplied with horses, and his successful raid upon them would have considerably strengthened his position.

The Pretender next marched to Wad Za, near Kasbah-el-Ayoun Sidi Mellouk, the garrison of which, under Kaïd-el-Baghdadi, fearing an attack, withdrew to Oujdah, leaving the Kasbah undefended.

From there the Pretender marched to Kasbah Tseluan, near Melillah, with the object, apparently, of assuring his position in the Riff, and collecting further contingents for his force.

He seems to have made but a short stay there, and, according to the latest accounts that have reached the Spanish Minister, is marching through the Riff tribes towards Oujdah. It is possible that his intention is to attack the Beni Snassen and other tribes that have been aiding the Sultan's troops before going to Oujdah.

Sid-el-Menebhi informs me that he had heard that the troops at Oujdah, disgusted at receiving no pay, had deserted in a body to join the Pretender; but I have received no confirmation of this report, which, if true, would render the position of Oujdah very precarious, unless assistance is lent from Algeria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 337.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Tangier, July* 30, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 110 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister informs me that the position at Ceuta remains the same, the man "Valiente" and his associates still preventing provisions from entering Ceuta.

M. de Cologan stated the efforts made by El Duas, the Governor of Angera, to reopen the communication had failed, he, apparently, not having the power to impose his authority on "El Valiente."

I inquired what steps the Spanish Government proposed to take to put an end to a state of things which must be very inconvenient to the Ceuta garrison, who have to send to Spain for all supplies.

M. de Cologan merely replied that something must be done, without giving any indication as to the nature of the steps to be taken; he led me, in fact, to infer that the Spanish Government found it difficult to find a solution, in view of the powerlessness of the Moorish Government. He informed me, privately, that he suspected that the Moorish Commander at the lines was secretly working with "Valiente," and disregards the orders he receives from Sid Torres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 338.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)

My Lord, *San Sebastian, August 5, 1904.*

I HEARD to-day from the French Ambassador here, that he thought that if the Spanish Government proposed to M. Delcassé a mere postponement of the application of the details instead of the Article deferring for fifteen years the exercise of certain duties in the sphere of influence to be alloted to Spain in Morocco, it would probably meet with acceptance. M. Cambon asked if I could assist him.

To-day, therefore, when I saw Señor San Pedro, I asked him whether he had received any answer from the Duke of Mandas to his message to him complaining of the term of fifteen years fixed by the French Minister during which the Spanish influence in her sphere in Morocco was to be dormant. He answered in the negative.

Upon this, I said to him the news from Morocco was very alarming and, in my opinion, it was essential no time should be lost in signing the French Agreement. He should, I thought, at once propose that the clause he objected to should be replaced by one stating that an ulterior understanding would fix the details of the application, and the moment of the application of the present Convention—or something to that effect. He said M. Leon y Castillo and M. Delcassé were not in Paris. To this I answered that he should speak to M. Leon y Castillo who, he said, was here, and to the French Ambassador, who could inform M. Delcassé in this sense. He agreed with me that the postponement would meet the case.

I made it clear to him that these were only my personal views.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 339.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 101.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 10, 1904.*

MENEBHI. Your Lordship's telegram No. 45 of the 4th instant.

Abdelsadok, Governor of Fez, arrived here yesterday from the Court. Sid Menebhi informs me that he learns that he has been sent with orders to arrest Jaai, and with reference to his own case. I have heard this also from another source, and it is possibly true. I had, however, on the other hand, understood that the Governor of Fez is to replace Rakina, who has been recalled, and is consequently on his way to Oujdah.

To prevent, if possible, Jaai's arrest, should I privately inform Abdelsadok that Sir A. Nicolson is writing in regard to him to the Court, and, in case he has such orders, request him, pending further instructions, not to act upon them?

In case, however, Jaai should be arrested, I should be grateful to receive your Lordship's instructions as to what course I should pursue.

No. 340.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 46.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August 10, 1904.*

REPORTED intention of Moorish Government to arrest Sid Menebhi's intendant.

Your telegram No. 101 of to-day.

I approve your making suggested private communication to Abdesadok.

In case of Jaai's being arrested you should report the circumstances, and await receipt of instructions.

No. 341.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 102.)

Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 11, 1904.*

AN urgent message has been sent by the Sultan to summon Hadj Abdslam Tazi to Court. This individual was formerly Finance Minister, and was the chief adviser of Ba Hamed, the late Grand Vizier. Sid Ghannam, in answer to my inquiries, assures me that nothing is known beyond the fact that Hadj Abdslam Tazi has been summoned to Fez. Rumours are, however, current here that he is to direct the policy of the Court, and will be reappointed Minister of Finance.

No. 342.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 12.)

(No. 103.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 12, 1904.*

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 97 of the 1st instant.

The following is a summary of Ben Sliman's reply to my note of the 1st instant regarding Sid el Menebhi:—

It is with much surprise that the Sultan hears that Sid Menebhi has British protection, and also that I state that His Majesty was quite well aware of the fact. The Sultan declares he was absolutely ignorant of it. Sid Menebhi is in the service of the Government, and is indebted to them in regard to funds administered by him. It is a notorious fact that he has been guilty of malversation of funds belonging to the Government, especially those which were in the charge of Sid Ba Hamed, the late Grand Vizier: these funds were taken possession of by Sid Menebhi ostensibly for the service of the Government. He is responsible for the present position of the country and has been proved guilty of treachery against the Government.

It was by order of the Government that action had been taken in regard to his property at Alcazar and similar orders had been sent to the officials of all the districts where he had property. This property belongs entirely to the Government, and their object is to prevent Sid el Menebhi disposing of it, though its total value would not amount to 1 per cent. of what he owes them. As the greater part of the property had been concealed by el Menebhi, the Government were obliged to take immediate steps to recover what had been hidden and also to safeguard the remainder. If Menebhi had committed a tithe of the above in any country his sentence would have been imprisonment for life. The British Government, the letter continues, would surely never allow it to be said that they enabled a Government servant to avoid paying what was due to them and strove to shield him from his own Government. This was what Menebhi was trying to do by attaching himself to them. Knowledge of this would cause a great stir amongst the people, and the matter is of immense importance. A most harmful precedent, and one which it will be difficult to remedy, will be created. In the anticipation that the rights of the Moorish Government will be respected, the Sultan has requested this reply to be forwarded to His Majesty's Government.

With reference to the denial of the Sultan that he knew of Menebhi's protection, I should add that, by His Majesty's instructions, Ben Sliman showed Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod the Memorandum in which His Majesty is informed of the grant of British protection. This Memorandum the Sultan had given Ben Sliman a few days previously. His Majesty, however, maintains that this was merely a promise that if protection were desired it would be granted, adding that he never desired it.

Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod was assured both by Ben Sliman and by the Sultan that, until our reply had been received, they would take no further action against Sid el Menebhi.

No. 343.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 104.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 12, 1904.

HADJ HAMED JAAI. Your Lordship's telegram No. 45 of the 4th instant.

In accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's above-mentioned telegram His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez made a communication to Sid Ben Sliman on the 8th instant in the terms indicated. His Excellency replied that he would report the matter to the Sultan and communicate His Majesty's decision to him, but that personally he could take no action in the matter. Hadj Hamed Jaai, he said, had been in charge of the payment of the troops at Taza, and consequently had been a Government servant. This is absolutely denied by Sid Menebhi.

The Colonel of infantry here has just arrested Jaai, who is now in prison and having irons placed upon him. A search is being made in his house, it being hoped, I presume, that papers compromising Menebhi will be found there. It is evident that this action has been taken by the Basha in consequence of orders received by special express messenger from Court. This courier accomplished the journey from Fez in three days, and reached Tangier yesterday evening. It is probable that the Moorish Government immediately on receipt of Mr. Macleod's communication concerning Jaai hurried off the courier so as to have a *fait accompli* to oppose to us in reply; for the decision to arrest him must have been previously come to, as I am informed by Sid Menebhi that he had already heard two days ago that he himself was to be shot and Jaai arrested.

Prisoner may possibly be hurried off to Fez at once.

No. 344.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 105. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 13, 1904.

ON grounds of Sid-el-Menebhi's holding a German decoration, the German Vice-Consul at Fez has, as I am confidentially informed, made a representation to the Court in his favour.

No. 345.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 106.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 13, 1904.

I PRESUME that there is no objection to His Majesty's ship "Minerva" coming to Tangier. The Admiral in charge at Gibraltar informs me he is sending her here for a few days on the 15th instant.

No. 346.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 13, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 104 of yesterday.

I am informed by Sid Menebhi that he himself had hired the house in which Jaai resided, and that he was living there until a short time ago, when he moved into a new house he has built here, leaving all his effects behind there. This house has been searched and sealed and the Basha, so Menebhi hears, has taken possession of all his documents which were there. It would appear, therefore, that the Sultan's promise that he would take no further action against Menebhi has been broken.

Letters received from Marrakesh by Sid Menebhi state that the authorities there have seized his documents, amongst them being receipts he had for Government property which had been entrusted to him and afterwards returned.

It is reported that Sid Menebhi's brother and also others connected with him have been arrested at Marrakesh.

No. 347.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 13, 1904.

A LETTER has been addressed to the foreign Representatives by the mountain tribes in which they state that reports have reached them that the French desire to bring about disorder in Morocco by landing troops at Tangier, and also by placing soldiers at the ports as guards.

The foreign Representatives are requested to prevent this, and are informed that there will be reprisals against Europeans unless they do so.

No. 348.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1904.

CASES of Sid Menebhi and Jaai.

With reference to your telegrams Nos. 103 and 104 of yesterday, you should inform Moorish Government that, at the time of granting British protection to Menebhi, His Majesty's Government had every reason to suppose they were taking this step at the express desire of the Sultan; that such protection cannot be taken away when once it has been accorded; that the Moorish Government should inform the British Representative of any claims or accusations which they may have to bring against Menebhi, when a searching inquiry into the matter will immediately be instituted by him. Under these circumstances the Moorish Government must understand that they will be responsible for any injury done to Menebhi's person or property before such an inquiry has taken place.

With regard to the case of Jaai I do not think we can take any action, as protection was granted to him irregularly, and the fact was neither notified to the Moorish Government nor to the Foreign Office in London.

You should explain the position of Menebhi's case to your French colleague, and express a hope that you may have his co-operation in bringing about a reasonable solution of the matter.

No. 349.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 14, 1904.

JAAI. My telegram No. 104 of the 12th instant.

The prisoner was taken off in chains under a strong escort last night. Fez is, I presume, his destination.

No. 350.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 3, 1904.

AT the request of Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Italian Minister, as the senior Minister at present at Tangier, invited all the foreign Representatives to a meeting at his Legation to hear a communication which Sid Torres and Sid Benasser Ghannam desired to make to us.

The meeting was held on the 30th ultimo, and Sid Benasser Ghannam then read a Memorandum in Arabic, which was translated into French by an interpreter who was present. In this Memorandum it is pointed out that, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country, the Government had incurred heavy expenses in restoring order and tranquillizing the foreign residents, and has found itself obliged to burden the country with a loan; that it is necessary to commence, by organizing a military force, to maintain order and public security, for which purpose funds are necessary; and that the simplest means of obtaining them would appear to be to increase the duties on imports and exports. The Sultan has accordingly decided to appoint a Commissioner to negotiate on this subject with the Representatives at Tangiers, but desired, in the first place, to explain to us his motives and objects in adopting this course.

The Italian Minister, at the request of the foreign Representatives, informed Sid Torres and Sid Ghannam that we took note of the communication he had made to us, and requested that he would furnish us with a copy thereof in writing, in order that we might take cognizance of its exact terms and consider it before making any reply thereto.

I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of the translation of the Memorandum which has been made jointly by the Dragomans of the various Legations. In this translation it appears that there is no mention in the Memorandum of the payment of claims, and it is evident that when, in translating the document verbally, as read to him by Sid Ghannam at the meeting, the interpreter spoke of the payment of claims, he had misheard and mistranslated the Arabic word used.

I have spoken to the French and some of the other Representatives on the subject, and they do not appear to regard the proposal of the Sultan with a favourable eye, as it offers no facilities in exchange for the additional duties. The general opinion is, however, that it is preferable to forward the Memorandum to our respective Governments and await instructions before discussing the subject here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 350.

Memorandum.

(Traduction.)

VOUS n'ignorez pas la situation actuellement créée dans l'Empire Marocain par l'apparition de l'agitateur rebelle, et les dépenses importantes qu'a faites le Makhzen pour apaiser ses sujets et pour tranquilliser les ressortissants des Puissances qui y sont établis, à tel point que la nécessité s'est imposée de grever d'un emprunt le Trésor public.

Comme il a été reconnu nécessaire d'adopter les moyens propres à augmenter les ressources financières qui alimentent toutes les entreprises et qui en constituent le pivot de leur origine à leur achèvement, il a paru utile de commencer par la réorganisation indispensable de la force armée, principe de la sécurité et de la tranquillité, et sans laquelle aucun résultat ne peut être obtenu. Le Makhzen a pensé que le moyen le plus simple dont on pouvait parler dans cette situation précaire était l'augmentation convenable de droits de douane à l'exportation et à l'importation, surtout en ce moment où cette mesure est justifiée par de nombreux motifs et circonstances que tout esprit équitable comprend et admet. On a procédé de même à l'augmentation des droits de douane en Europe dans les circonstances qui justifiaient semblable mesure pour les besoins créés par les réformes nécessaires.

Sa Majesté Chérifienne a décidé de nommer un Ambassadeur pour engager les pourparlers avec vos Excellences amies à Tanger.

Cependant, notre Maître—Dieu l'assiste!—nous a ordonné de nous réunir auparavant avec vous afin de vous exposer les motifs qui ont inspiré cette proposition et les mobiles qui l'ont déterminée. Après quoi, nous en rendrons compte à Sa Majesté Chérifienne afin qu'elle envoie l'Ambassadeur en vue de traiter cette question avec vous.

No. 351.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 138.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 5, 1904.

THE ill-will of the Sultan against Sid el Hadj el Mehedi el Menebhi, first shown in His Majesty's censure of Sid Torres for the reception accorded to him, as reported in my despatch No. 127 of the 23rd ultimo, has now found expression in overt acts against Sid el Menebhi himself, and against his confidential secretary, Hajd Hamed Jaai, who is his right-hand man, and accompanied him on his recent tour.

The British Consular Agent at Alcazar, who acts to some extent as Sid el Menebhi's agent in that town, reported that on the 30th ultimo the Governor had formally taken possession of all Sid el Menebhi's property, placing seals on the houses, amongst them being a house which, the Consular Agent informed me, was in his own occupation, but which was sealed notwithstanding his protest.

Sid el Menebhi, who had also received letters from Alcazar reporting the occurrence, came at once to see me. He was naturally extremely annoyed at the indignity which had been publicly put upon him, and was very bitter as to this manner of requiting his great services to the Sultan. He was also nervous as to what steps the Sultan might have taken at other places where he has properties and goods of great value, and at Fez, where his wife is still residing.

I reassured him as best I could, reminding him that he had nothing to fear, as he was under the protection of His Majesty's Government, who would see that he suffered no wrong. He replied that it was on the strength of that protection and on the recommendation of His Majesty's Minister that he had returned to Morocco, and that, relying on that protection, he would leave the matter in our hands, for otherwise, he added, he would not submit to this affront; he had only to go out and call his followers, and he would have a force with which he could sweep away the Sultan and his whole Court. From what I have indirectly heard from intelligent Moors here, and to judge from the letters he has shown me received from many of the most influential country Governors, I am inclined to think this is no empty boast.

I, of course, impressed on Sid el Menebhi that any such action on his part was out of the question, and must be dismissed from his mind.

As the effect of any representation to the Court on this incident would be weakened by delay, and as I thought it very probable that the action taken at Alcazar was probably tentative and would be followed by a more serious action elsewhere if a protest was not at once made, I addressed a letter to Sid Ben Sliman on the 1st instant drawing attention to the fact that Sid el Menebhi is under British protection, and demanding the immediate release of his property. In this letter, translation of which I beg leave to transmit herewith, I assumed that the incident had arisen through some misapprehension on the part of the authorities at Alcazar, hoping thereby to make it easier for the Moorish Government to make reparation.

The following day I received a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informing me that action had been taken in regard to Sid el Menebhi's property in that town, and also in regard to Hadj Hamed Jaai.

From this despatch, and from letters received by Hadj Hamed Jaai from his brother and from his partner at Fez, it appears that a guard of soldiers had been placed at Sid el Menebhi's house in which his wife and family reside, with orders not to permit any person or thing to leave the house. Hadj Hamed Jaai's brother and partner had each been summoned before the authorities and questioned as to the properties of Sid el Menebhi and of Hadj Hamed Jaai, being made to guarantee by notarial document that the property of the latter would not be disposed of, and would be handed over to the Government whenever demanded. At the same time couriers had been dispatched to all the ports and places in the interior where Sid el Menebhi holds property, with orders to the authorities to prevent his leaving the country and to lay an embargo on all his property; Tangier being, it appears, the only place to which no orders for embargoing his property were dispatched. His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez further informed me in a subsequent despatch that Kaïd Sir H. Maclean had been informed by an official at the Court that orders had also been issued for the arrest of Sid el Menebhi if possible.

To avoid the possibility of any action being taken against Sid el Menebhi by the authorities at Tangier, I deemed it prudent to address a letter to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, informing him that Sid el Menebhi is under British protection, and warning

him that any interference with him or his property would be a serious infraction of Treaty stipulations.

The action taken against Sid el Menebhi's property at Fez rendering it impossible to longer assume that the Sultan was foreign to the matter, I addressed a further letter to Sid Ben Sliman yesterday in the terms of the instructions conveyed to me by your Lordship. I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of this letter, in which I refer to the reports that reached me of further action having been taken against Sid el Menebhi, and whilst expressing the hope that on receipt of my former letter reparation had been made, I request him to impress upon the Sultan that the treatment to which Sid el Menebhi had been subjected is quite indefensible, and will, if persisted in, incur the displeasure of His Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 351.

Mr. White to Sid Ben Sliman.

(Translation.)
(After compliments), *Tangier, August* 1, 1904.

IT is with great surprise that I have just learnt from the British Consular Agent at Alcazar that the Khalifa of that town, with the Kadi and Mohtasseb, had seized the properties of Sid el Hadj el Mehedi el Menebhi and placed seals upon the houses, fondak, &c. I am convinced that these officials have acted under a misapprehension, for it is impossible that they can have received any orders to that effect from the Shereefian Court, and I am sure that the Sultan will be much annoyed when he learns what has happened, for His Majesty is well aware that Sid el Hadj el Mehedi el Menebhi is under British protection, and that any interference of the Moorish authorities with him or with his property is a clear infraction of Treaty stipulations.

I need not point out to your Excellency the gravity of this incident, which I am sure you must greatly regret. I must, however, request you to report the matter at once to the Sultan in order that stringent orders may be sent without loss of time to the Khalifa of Alcazar to immediately remove the seals from Sid el Menebhi's properties and to restore them to the person in charge; and I have no doubt that His Shereefian Majesty will also take other steps to mark his regret for what has occurred and his displeasure with the officials responsible for this grave infraction of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 351.

Mr. White to Ben Sliman.

(After compliments), *Tangier, August* 5, 1904.

ON the 3rd August (20 Jumad I, 1322) I addressed your Excellency a letter on the subject of the action taken by the Khalifa of Alcazar in respect to the properties of Sid el Hadj el Mehedi el Menebhi, and I pointed out the grave character of the incident, as it was known to His Majesty the Sultan that Sid el Menebhi is under British protection. When I addressed this letter to your Excellency I felt convinced that the action of the said Khalifa was due to some misunderstanding on his part, and that on the occurrence being brought to the knowledge of the Sultan His Majesty would at once take steps to mark his displeasure and to cause reparation to be given.

Since dispatching that letter, however, I have learnt with great surprise and regret that the occurrence at Alcazar was not, as I supposed, an isolated act, but orders have been received by other officials to lay an embargo on the property of Sid el Menebhi, and that even at Fez guards have been placed upon the house in which his family reside. I am therefore reluctantly compelled to believe that the orders have been issued from the Shereefian Court. I trust, however, that upon receipt of my former letter the Sultan will have given the necessary orders in this matter. It is, however, my duty to impress strongly upon the Sultan that the treatment to which

Sid el Menebhi has been subjected is quite indefensible, and will, if persisted in, incur the displeasure of His Majesty's Government, who had promised him British protection in recognition of his public services.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 352.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 139.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 6, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 136 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Minister informs me that the position at Ceuta has improved, and that provisions are now again being brought in.

M. de Cólogan attributes this improvement to the absence from his post of the Moorish Commander at the lines, who was summoned to Tangier to consult with Sid Torres. The Governor of Ceuta had been previously convinced that this official was in a great measure responsible for the trouble that had arisen, and the fact that provisions again began to enter Ceuta immediately after his departure would appear amply to confirm this view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 353.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 140.)
My Lord. *Tangier, August* 6, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 103 of the 2nd ultimo, I have the honour to report that M. Regnault, having completed his tour of the coast and installed the French Delegates at the custom-houses at all the ports, has left for France, but will return in about two months' time to take up his residence at Tangier.

I understand from the French Minister that there is great exaggeration in the reports published in the foreign press as to the opposition with which M. Regnault had met on the part of the Administrators at the various ports. On the contrary, the inauguration of the service had been effected, on the whole, in a satisfactory manner. At two ports, Mazagan and Saffi, there had been a misunderstanding on the part of the Administrators as to the date at which the Delegates were to commence collecting the 60 per cent. of the receipts, but this had arisen from the omission of the Moorish Government to send precise instructions to the various ports: they had merely forwarded to the Administrators copies of the Loan Contract, with instructions to conform themselves strictly to its terms. The Contract, being long and somewhat involved, had been incomprehensible to some of the Administrators, who supposed that, as the redemption of the loan was not to commence till the year 1906, the 60 per cent. of the customs receipts were not to be paid over till that date.

M. Saint-René Taillandier informs me, however, that categorical orders to the various Administrators had now been forwarded to him from the Court, which will put an end to all possibility of further misunderstanding.

Though the bulk of the loan cannot be drawn upon by the Moorish Government until ten days after the service is fully established, so little is further trouble anticipated that the contractors have advanced another sum of 1,000,000 fr. on the loan, and doubtless the remainder of the loan will be at the disposal of the Moorish Government very shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 354.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 15, 1904.

MENEBHI. Your Lordship's telegram No. 47 of the 13th instant.

I called upon the French Minister to-day, and explained Sid Menebhi's case to him, and asked him to co-operate with me in reaching a solution. M. Saint René Taillandier replied that he would apply to his Government for instructions. He said that personally it seemed to him that as the protection was contrary to Treaty, its validity is open to question. I observed in reply that His Majesty's Government and the Sultan (who is the Government in Morocco) had agreed to Sid el Menebhi's protection as an exception to the terms of the Treaty, and that the protection was consequently valid.

The French Minister argued, on the other hand, that it was doubtful whether the agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Sultan was sufficient to render the protection valid, since there are other Parties to the Treaty, and their interests might possibly be affected by the protection of an important Minister.

M. Saint René Taillandier went on to say, however, that his Government had not made any communication to him on the subject, and the above was only his private opinion.

No. 355.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir F Lascelles.

(No. 170.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 15, 1904.

THE German Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and told me, explaining that he did so unofficially, that the German Government was anxiously watching the course of events in Morocco, to which he had called my attention on the 1st June last. They desired that the *status quo* should, so far as possible, be maintained in that country, that the Sultan should remain independent, and that the policy of the open door should prevail. They observed that markets were being closed to German trade all over the world, and they were anxious that the Moorish markets should not be so closed. They had a Commercial Treaty with Morocco which entitled them for all time to most-favoured-nation treatment, and they imagined that this was sufficient to prevent their trade being unfairly treated. They were, however, not so sure that they could depend upon fair treatment in regard to Concessions and industrial enterprises. They thought they saw symptoms of an intention on the part of France to monopolize these, and they had some doubts as to the manner in which we should regard attempts of the kind. They observed that under Article 9 of the Declaration respecting Egypt and Morocco the two Governments agree to afford to one another their diplomatic support in order to obtain the execution of the Declaration. Did this, his Excellency went on to say, mean that, supposing a German concessionnaire was unfairly treated by the Moorish Government at the instance of France, we should support the French Government in their action, and what was the intention of the words at the end of Article 4 in which France and Great Britain reserve to themselves in Egypt and Morocco the right to see that Concessions for roads, railways, ports, &c., "are only granted on such conditions as will maintain intact the authority of the State over these great undertakings of public interest?"

I told his Excellency that I did not much like expressing an opinion upon an hypothetical case, but that the whole spirit of the Anglo-French Agreement was indicated by the opening words of Article 4, in which it was announced that the two Governments were equally attached to the principle of commercial liberty both in Egypt and Morocco. His Excellency should not forget that in our Agreement with France we made no attempt to dispose of the rights of other Powers, although we made certain concessions in respect of the rights and opportunities to which we were ourselves entitled. I could at any rate say that it was not at all probable that, if any third Power were to have occasion to uphold its Treaty rights, we should use our

influence in derogation of them. His Excellency made it clear to me that Germany intended to uphold any rights which she was entitled to claim in Morocco under existing Treaties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 356.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 16.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, August* 16, 1904.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a decypher of a telegram, dated the 15th instant, from the Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar, reporting the sailing of His Majesty's ship "Minerva" for Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 356.

Senior Naval Officer, Gibraltar, to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Gibraltar, August* 15, 1904.

"MINERVA" left here to-day for Tangier.

No. 357.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 16.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 16, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 105 of the 13th August.

I am informed that the German Vice-Consul at Fez, acting on instructions he had received, had an audience of the Sultan, and informed him of the interest the German Emperor takes in Sid el Menebhi, expressing the hope that he might not be the victim of any injustice or violence. The Sultan replied to him to the effect that no action would be taken against el Menebhi, in his person, but there were various charges against him.

(Secret.)

In a conversation I had with Sid el Menebhi this morning he told me that, from secret information he had received from a Fez Moor here, the brother of the Minister of Finance had remitted to him a sum of 10,000 dollars, and he had heard that a similar sum had been received by a Shereef residing here; these sums were to be handed to any one who would assassinate Sid el Menebhi.

Sid el Menebhi, who feels that his life will always be in danger here, puts forward the following proposal as a solution to the situation: that permission be granted him to dispose of his properties in this country either by sale to the Government or others—if to the former at a fair valuation—and that he and his family should go to Egypt and reside there.

I propose, subject to your Lordship's approval of this suggestion, to communicate it to the French Minister, and to the Sultan or the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

No. 358.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 16, 1904.*

MENEBHI. My despatch No. 138 of the 5th August.

Sid ben Sliman's reply to my letter of the 5th August has just arrived. His Excellency confines himself to referring to his previous letter to me, of which a summary was forwarded to your Lordship in my telegram No. 103 of the 12th instant.

No. 359.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August 16, 1904.*

CASE of Sid Menebhi.

We should raise no objection to an arrangement of the nature suggested in your telegram No. 111 of to-day, provided that it is acceptable to Menebhi, and you are authorized to take whatever steps you consider best calculated to bring it about.

No. 360.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egertoon.

(No. 116.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 16, 1904.*

THE Spanish Ambassador told me to-day that the negotiations between France and Spain with regard to the position of those two Powers in Morocco were still dragging on. The Spanish Government was most anxious to bring them to a conclusion, and had no desire to prefer unreasonable claims. His Excellency told me that they were ready to agree to a clause running as follows:—

(Clause de Délimitation.)

"Puis après:—

"Il est réservé à l'Espagne, dans la zone dont la délimitation vient d'être fixée ci-dessus, une action égale à celle qui est reconnue à la France par le paragraphe 2 de l'Article 2 de la Déclaration du 8 Avril, 1904, relative au Maroc et à l'Égypte.

"Cependant, en considération des difficultés actuelles et de l'avantage réciproque de les aplanir, l'Espagne déclare qu'elle se propose de ne pas faire usage de cette action si ce n'est d'accord avec la France et par les moyens dont pourront convenir les deux Gouvernements pendant la première période d'application de la présente Convention, période qui ne pourra pas excéder de quinze ans à compter du jour de la signature du présent Acte; et la France, de son côté, pour l'action qu'elle aura à exercer près du Gouvernement du Maroc tant que le *statu quo* durera, devra procéder, d'accord avec le Gouvernement Espagnol, en ce qui touche la zone d'influence réservée à l'Espagne."

I said that the clause seemed to me, *primâ facie*, a very reasonable one, and I asked whether it had been rejected by the French Government. His Excellency said that it had not yet been offered to M. Delcassé, but that your Excellency was aware of the nature of the proposal. I promised the Duc de Mandas that I would endeavour to find an opportunity of ascertaining how the French Government regarded the proposed clause. M. Cambon was, however, unfortunately absent from England, and I might not have the chance of speaking to him on the subject for some time.

Should your Excellency have an opportunity of discussing the subject with your French colleague, you might endeavour to ascertain whether the French Government would be likely to raise any objection to the terms proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 361.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 452. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1904.*

THE French Minister called here to-day, and in my absence Sir E. Gorst communicated to him the substance of my despatch No. 116 of the 16th instant to Sir E. Egerton, recording a conversation with the Spanish Ambassador on the subject of the Franco-Spanish negotiations respecting Morocco.

At M. Geoffray's request, Sir E. Gorst gave him privately a copy of the clause proposed by the Duc de Mandas. Sir E. Gorst also told M. Geoffray that the clause seemed to me, *primâ facie*, a reasonable one, and that I had promised to ascertain how the French Government regarded it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 362.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 94. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17, 1904.*

THE French Minister called here to-day with reference to the case of Menebhi. He said that M. Delcassé was anxious that the occasion should be utilized to impress on the Sultan the recognition by His Majesty's Government of French predominance in Morocco, and that His Majesty's Representative at Tangier should, as far as possible, work through the French Representative in order to obtain a satisfactory solution of the question.

M. Geoffray was informed that your instructions had, from the first, been to co-operate closely with your French colleague, but that His Majesty's Government imagine that there could be no objection to their directly addressing the Moorish Government in a case where a British-protected subject was concerned. To this, M. Geoffray assented.

The question of Menebhi's protection was also discussed, and the French Minister showed no disposition to question its validity.

M. Geoffray was told that Menebhi now displayed a desire to leave Morocco for good, and that His Majesty's Government had no objection to such a solution. It was agreed that for the French Government it would be an "embarras de moins."

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 363.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August 20, 1904.*

I AM informed by Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod that on the 15th instant Sid-ben-Sliman sent for him to say that he had been instructed by the Sultan to ask him to tell me that information has reached His Majesty to the effect that Sid-el-Menebhi has been, and continues to be, in communication with the southern tribes and also with Reissouli, and is inciting them to rebellion. The Sultan, whilst protesting against this, sends me warning that, on the first act of insubordination on the part of the tribes or of Reisseuli, Sid-el-Menebhi's properties will be seized and he himself arrested. Although Mr. MacLeod pointed out to Sid-ben-Sliman that, in view of His Majesty's Government having declared that Sid-el-Menebhi was under British protection, this threat was extremely grave, his Excellency repeated the message, saying it must be communicated to me, according to the Sultan's orders. El Menebhi, whom I have questioned, positively declares that these charges are absolutely without foundation. For some time past all reports have agreed that as soon as harvest opera-

tions are completed (*i.e.*, very shortly) disturbances are certain to arise in the south; it is probable, therefore, that the Sultan will shortly issue orders for Sid-el-Menebhi's arrest.

Under these circumstances I venture to submit to your Lordship whether it would not be advisable that His Majesty's ship "Minerva" should remain here for the present; and that the Sultan's Deputy here should be informed that a guard of marines will be placed at Sid-el-Menebhi's house to guard him, unless he will give me a written guarantee that he will not be molested in any way.

The French Minister, to whom I confidentially communicated the substance of the Sultan's message, has promised to warn the Moorish Government that their proposed course of action is one of considerable danger. M. Saint René Taillandier went on to inform me that he hears that the French Representative in London has received instructions to communicate with your Lordship with reference to Sid-el-Menebhi's case, but that he himself has received as yet no authority from his Government to co-operate with me in the matter.

No. 364.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 20.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 20, 1904.

SPANISH papers publish a report that a French column has been attacked at Wad Za in the Oujdah district.

The French Minister, in answer to my inquiry as to the truth of this report, informed me that he was aware that a small French force had entered Moorish territory. The Moorish troops were acting against Bu Amama, and it was thought that the presence of the French column would afford them moral support. M. Saint René Taillandier had not heard that the French column had been attacked.

The French Minister added, confidentially, that he hoped this force would be soon withdrawn, and that no further expeditions would be made into Moorish territory, as he considered such action very imprudent.

No. 365.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 21.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 21, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 113 of yesterday.

Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod took an opportunity, when presenting my letter of the 14th instant to Sid-ben-Sliman, to refer to the Sultan's message to me containing a threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi. Sid-ben-Sliman seemed to recognize that a false step had been taken by the Sultan, and promised to again speak with His Majesty on the subject, and ask for instructions; at the same time he admitted that the terms of the message had been correctly delivered.

I venture to submit, however, with all due deference, that it would nevertheless be desirable that I should send a firm reply to the original message.

No. 366.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 142.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 12, 1904.

A CONSIDERABLE amount of speculation has been caused by the receipt of news that Hadj Abdslam Tazi and Sid Moulin had been suddenly summoned to proceed at once to the Court. Hadj Abdslam Tazi was Minister of Finance during the time that Sid Hamed-ben-Musa, generally known as Ba Hamed, was Grand Vizier, and being clever and possessing his full confidence, he, to a great extent, shaped the policy of the Government at that time. He had the reputation of being an upright man, but was decidedly reactionary. On the death of Ba Hamed in 1901

Hadj Abdslam Tazi retired, and made the pilgrimage to Mecca, and since his return he has lived at Rabat.

Sid Moulin was principal Secretary at the Ministry of Finance under Hadj Abdslam Tazi, and continued to serve for some time under his successor, but eventually obtained leave to retire.

The summoning of these two men to Fez and the fact that the chief Kadi of that town, who had obtained leave to absent himself for some time, in connection with the marriage of his son, had also been recalled, gave rise to the rumour that there were to be great changes at Court, and that Hadj Abdslam Tazi was again to be the guiding spirit.

As I was informed that Sid Benasser Ghannam had stated that he had received confirmation of this rumour, I called upon him to inquire whether he could give me any information on the subject, as the reappearance of Hadj Abdslam Tazi as a power at the Court would be of some importance. Sid Ghannam, however, assured me that he was without any information on the subject, except the bare fact that these men had been summoned to the Court.

It appears to me very probable that the Sultan has sent for them in connection with the case of Sid-el-Mehedi-el-Menebhi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 367.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 12, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 138 of the 5th instant regarding the action taken by the Moorish Government against Sid-el-Hadj-el-Mehedi-el-Menebhi, I have the honour to report that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that he had delivered to Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman my letter of the 1st instant, translation of which was inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch. Sid-ben-Sliman read the letter, and said he would send it to the Sultan, and would communicate His Majesty's reply to Mr. Macleod.

A conversation ensued between Sid-ben-Sliman and Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, in which the former affected great surprise at the contents of my letter, professing absolute ignorance of British protection having been accorded to Sid-el-Menebhi. He at first denied that Kaïd Sir H. Maclean had ever mentioned the matter to him; but subsequently, on being pressed by Mr. Macleod, admitted that he had told him of the protection, adding that he had not believed it, as the Sultan had denied it.

Later in the day Mr. Macleod had a further interview with Sid-ben-Sliman, after the latter had seen the Sultan. His Excellency then informed Mr. Macleod that a reply would be delivered to my letter the following day, and repeated that the Sultan and the Court had no knowledge of the protection claimed for Sid-el-Menebhi. He mentioned the various charges against him, and said that when they were made known to the British Government they would be the last to desire to protect him from the retribution due. Sid-ben-Sliman, whilst refusing to raise the embargo which had been laid on Sid-el-Menebhi's property, eventually promised that no further steps would be taken until an arrangement had been come to with this Legation.

I had suggested to Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, who is constantly received by the Sultan, that should Sid-ben-Sliman appear not to realize the gravity of the matter, or fail to give satisfactory assurances, I should be glad if he could take an opportunity of speaking on the subject to His Majesty. Mr. Macleod was received by the Sultan on the following day, and I beg leave to transmit herewith copy of the report he has forwarded to me of his conversation with His Majesty, who persisted in denying that he had any knowledge that protection had been granted to Sid-el-Menebhi, declaring that all that had passed was that His Majesty's Government had promised that it would grant such protection should His Majesty so desire.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, giving a detailed account of an interview he had with Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman on the following day, when he asked for the reply to my letter, and requested to see the document to which the Sultan had referred as having been handed to him by Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, in which the protection of Sid-el-Menebhi was mentioned.

Sid-ben-Sliman was very reluctant to produce this latter document, but finally consented to do so, and permitted Mr. Macleod to take a copy of it.

The document is your Lordship's Secret Memorandum to Kaïd Sir H. Maclean of the 24th October, 1902.

If, as would appear from Mr. Macleod's despatch, the copy he forwards of the Arabic translation of the Memorandum is an accurate verbatim copy made from the document direct, and not merely written from dictation, Mr. Irwin, who made the translation, assures me that it is not the original translation, as there are a number of orthographical errors in it which he would never have made.

That evening Sid-ben-Sliman handed to Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod his reply to my letter of the 1st instant, in which his Excellency expresses surprise at hearing that British protection had been granted to Sid-el-Menebhi, and alleges that the Sultan had no knowledge thereof. He charges Sid-el-Menebhi with misappropriation of Government funds and with treachery towards the Government, and states that the Sultan had ordered an embargo to be laid on all his property to prevent its being dissipated or placed out of reach of the Government, and he expresses the hope that His Majesty's Government will not allow him, through their protection, to escape the punishment he deserves.

I beg leave to inclose herewith translation of this letter.

Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod informs me that at this interview he handed to Sid-ben-Sliman my second letter, dated the 5th instant, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 138 of that date.

Sid-el-Menebhi informs me that he has received letters from Marrakesh reporting that the houses in that town where his agents reside, and where he has the greater part of his effects, have been searched and all documents removed, including various receipts he held for Government property, which had been intrusted to him and subsequently returned.

If the Government have obtained possession of all these papers, it will be difficult for Sid-el-Menebhi to clear himself of any claim that they may choose to bring against him.

Hadj Abdeslam Tazi, who, with his secretary, has been hastily summoned to Fez, was Minister of Finance under the régime of the late Grand Vizier, Ba Hamed, whose entire confidence he possessed, and who rarely did anything without consulting him. He kept all the Government accounts, and was also acquainted with all Ba Hamed's affairs, and Sid-el-Menebhi attributes his summons to the Court at this moment to the desire of the Court to ascertain the amount standing to the credit of the Moorish Government in the books on the death of Ba Hamed, with a view of holding him responsible for it, although he was never Minister of Finance or in charge of the Treasury.

Sid-el-Menebhi further informs me that he has received letters from his agent at Marrakesh, stating that all farms in the south, where he has property of great value, have been seized and much property pillaged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 367.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.

(No. 44.)

Sir, *Fez, August* 6, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that this forenoon Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman let me know that the Sultan would see me at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

Sid Abdelkrim himself arrived at the Palace gate while I was waiting there, went in by himself and had an audience of a few minutes with the Sultan.

When he came out I was shown in, and found His Majesty alone. He seemed in good spirits and made affable—indeed, suspiciously affable—greetings, and bade me sit down beside him.

I then said you had instructed me, if Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman would not give satisfactory explanations and assurances in regard to the seizure of Sid Menebhi's property at Alcazar, to ask for an audience of His Majesty on the subject.

Sid Abdelkrim had conceded nothing, and I was much afraid His Majesty was not really understanding how the matter appeared to us, or the construction that might be placed on the occurrence. It amounted to this, that the British Government gave

protection to Sid Menebhi at His Shereefian Majesty's special request, and in token of, or proof of, their friendship for the Sultan.

In short, the British Government had protected and honoured Sid Menebhi for "the Sultan's face," as is the Moorish phrase. What could they think, when the Sultan, without even warning or previous explanation, suddenly seized the property of the very man whom His Majesty had placed under their protection? They could only conclude, in the absence of satisfactory explanation and reparation, that the Sultan wished to affront them in the eyes of all the world (I stopped here to afford His Majesty an opportunity of answering, but he only said "Go on.") So I continued, "I would earnestly beseech your Majesty not to prolong the present situation. It will cause your feelings to us to be misjudged, and, moreover, will obstruct your own objects, for it will make the British Government feel more sure that they are in the right if your Majesty continues to use force in this way; and so, I would urge your Majesty earnestly, in view of the circumstances, to at once be conciliatory and remove the embargo on Sid Menebhi's properties. There is no one readier to do justice than the British Government, and there is plenty of time to do it, but first of all there must be a withdrawal of this display of force."

The Sultan then said, "And that is the Chargé d'Affaires' message?" I said, "In effect, yes."

"Well, then, give him my greetings, and say that in regard to his note a full answer to it is in preparation and will be sent at once, and tell him" (here the Sultan in deep and vehement tones, and speaking very rapidly, went on to say) "that I have never had any intimation, written or verbal, that Menebhi was under protection." Here I remarked that this was very extraordinary, for I was instructed that such intimation had been made by Kaïd Sir Harry Maclean.

I then produced and read to His Majesty the following paragraph of your letter to me of the 2nd instant:—

"As you are aware, protection was given to Sid-el-Menebhi not merely by the Legation but by His Majesty's Government direct, at the special request of the Sultan, and a document was handed to His Majesty informing him that his request had been acceded to, and protection granted to Sid-el-Menebhi, His Majesty expressing his thanks for the communication. Quite recently the subject was spoken of by the Sultan, and messages exchanged with Sir A. Nicolson through Kaïd Sir H. Maclean. There can therefore be no question as to His Majesty's knowledge of the existence of the protection, and I cannot for one moment believe that His Majesty can have authorized the seizure of Sid Menebhi's properties at Alcazar, it must have been brought about by some blunder of a subordinate official."

To this the Sultan answered emphatically: "No, no, no! these are not the facts; what happened was this: Kaïd Maclean was going to England, and I gave him a letter to the British Government, asking in a private way for their assistance in certain matters, of which Kaïd Maclean would tell them. These were about the making of a railway and the development of mines, and the like, with English capital, in certain districts of the country. We were afraid of the French, but had no objection, but quite the contrary, to whatever the English might wish to do in these things. On his return Kaïd Maclean brought me a letter from Lord Lansdowne, with an Arabic translation done at the British Legation, promising the assistance referred to when required. The letter went on to say that the British Government would be agreeable to give protection to me and also to Menebhi when and if I so desired. The references as to protection surprised me, and I at once called Kaïd Maclean's attention to them sharply, and he answered that they were not made in response to any request made by him, but were simply tokens of how highly the British Government esteemed me. This explanation satisfied me, but to make sure I had the English text translated by some of my people who read English, and was told that it, and particularly the words, 'if the Sultan wishes,' coincided with the Arabic text. I accepted these allusions in that sense, and sent my thanks through the Kaïd in a letter.

"Nothing further occurred until recently, when one day Kaïd Maclean said to me, 'People are saying that your Majesty is angry with Menebhi, and it is because he has protection.' I said, 'Protection! What protection? He has not protection.' The Kaïd then referred me to Lord Lansdowne's letter, and I answered that it did not say protection had been given to Menebhi, but that only it would be given if I asked for it, and I had never asked either before the letter came or afterwards.' The Kaïd said I had asked for it before he went to England, and Dr. Verdon was present, but I again denied it."

[I here inquired: "Did your Majesty then send for Dr. Verdon?" and the Sultan

answered, "No, I did not; I knew I was right, the doctor is a good man and my friend, and I did not wish to make him give the lie either to his friend the Kaïd or to myself."]

"Kaïd Maclean was my father's friend" (the Arabic word used means friend, servant, or confidential retainer) "and is mine, but," (this was with much emphasis), "in this matter he is not telling the truth. I never asked for protection, either for myself or for Menebhi. Why should I have asked it for myself? and much less could I have asked for it for Menebhi. Why should I ask protection for my own Vizier against myself? Maclean has told several different stories recently about Menebhi being protected. To one (*i.e.*, Hadj Omar Tazi) he said it was because of his (Menebhi's) decoration, if so, I am a protégé too; to another, it was because he had been an Ambassador, as if any man became protected by being an Ambassador. Who had ever heard of such a thing? Did his full powers include the right to get himself protected?"

The Sultan spoke the foregoing so rapidly as to offer little or no opportunity for interruption, and ended by warmly asking me to answer.

I answered that I could not discuss all this, I had nothing to do with such points, but I would again beg him to be more conciliatory. I mentioned that Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman yesterday had described Sid Menebhi's embargoed properties as only one shilling in the pound of what he possessed, and urged that surely it was not worth while to complicate and delay the matter, and give the appearance of offending the British Government by continuing to hold on to such a trifle, and again urged how important it would be even for his own case to desist at once from all appearance of force, but he only shook his head, and then said, "The British Government, I am certain, do not understand at all what has happened, and do not know the facts. I have, therefore, ordered Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to give you the reply to the Chargé d'Affaires' note, and to explain any points about the affair you may not be clear about, and he has, and will show you Lord Lansdowne's letter, which I mentioned. I say again, this is the only communication on the subject, written or verbal, from your Government which I have ever received."

"But," I said, "what about the messages exchanged recently with Sir A. Nicolson?" (And I again referred to your letter of the 2nd August.)

"Messages," the Sultan answered, "there were none."

I then rose to go, and said how sorry I was to have no better report to send; but I now had only one thing more to say, namely, that in Fez itself I had, out of consideration for His Majesty and to avoid possible commotion, refrained from taking public steps to mark that Menebhi's house was under British protection; but it must not be imagined that this meant I consented to the guards being there, I still protested against that.

I learn that no intrusions into the house had occurred, nor had any of its inmates been molested, and I looked to His Majesty to recognize how things stood, and to assure me that nothing would be done to the house, its contents, and its inmates. To this the Sultan answered that nothing more would be done, I could be assured of that, pending the settlement of the affair. The Sultan then repeated that he had told Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to give me the reply and detailed explanations for you, and to show me Lord Lansdowne's letter. Of this I said I must have a copy, to be able to submit to you for your information, and it would be useful, I reflected, as additional evidence of His Majesty having had some kind of notice of the protection, and in disproof of the Vizier's assertions that the whole case rested merely on the allegation of Kaïd Maclean.

"You can take a photograph of it if you wish," His Majesty added, laughingly, as I suggested this would be convenient. My idea in making this request was that by procuring for you an exact *fac-simile* of this document you would be able to verify it, and to know whether its Arabic or English text had been left intact or not.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 367.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. White.

(No. 45.)

Fez, August 8, 1904.

Sir,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 44 of the 6th instant, I have now the honour to report that by appointment I called on Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman last evening.

I said that the Sultan had informed me that no intimation of Menebhi's being protected had been made to His Majesty. The only allusion to the whole subject which had occurred was contained in a certain letter from Lord Lansdowne in which, after referring to other matters, his Lordship wrote that the British Government would give protection to the Sultan himself, and to Menebhi also, when and if the Sultan so desired; and His Majesty said I might take a photograph of it for transmission to the British Chargé d'Affaires; and that a reply to the Chargé d'Affaires' note was in preparation, so I had now come for a copy of the letter referred to and for the reply to the Chargé d'Affaires' note.

The Vizier replied uneasily. "By the way, it was you and not the Sultan who first alluded to this letter or paper of Lord Lansdowne's." "Yes," I answered, "I did so in reply to His Majesty's allegation that no intimation of the protection having reached him, and I read to His Majesty the Chargé d'Affaires' information to me on the matter; no doubt His Majesty has told you all that has passed" The Vizier said that was so, but the fact was that this letter, or memorandum rather, was of a very private kind, and he was not sure whether Lord Lansdowne would not be offended by its being cited, or by it being shown to any one without his knowledge, for it referred to other matters besides the protection, and the Sultan, on reconsideration, had feared it would not be "polite" to have it photographed.

"Oh, well," I said, indifferently, "about the photographing it, I daresay a written copy taken by me will do; but the Sultan has quoted Lord Lansdowne's letter, and attributed to it a certain meaning: now you know what conclusion is drawn when any one does not produce a document he cites to support his case."

After a pause, the Vizier resumed: "Well I can hardly suppose Lord Lansdowne will take offence at his papers being shown to the Consul here of his own Government, but it is very private, and the Sultan never showed it nor mentioned it to me till the other day, but since His Majesty has ordered it, I will show you the letter."

Here Sid Abdelkrim went out of the room and returned presently and said: "This is the letter, you may take a copy of it."

The English text was on one sheet of paper, and the Arabic on another. I copied both papers in pencil at once, and handed the originals back to the Vizier. He then said assertively, "Now, didn't I tell you that?" "Tell me what?" I asked. "Why that the British Government never had given protection to Menebhi, they would give it only if the Sultan wished." "But," I said, "have you read those papers? The meaning in both texts is absolutely unmistakable, it says that the protection has been at His Majesty's wish, *i.e.*, his past desire. It says nothing about future wishes of the Sultan's. Look at it, it can bear no other interpretation!" The Vizier then reread the Arabic text, and said, "Well I can't, as I don't know English, say what the English text means, but the word 'kama' in the Arabic text clearly implies that the second protection is to be on the same footing as the first one, and the word 'morada' is future not past; you will hardly argue Arabic with me, will you? and it is the Arabic text that we have to do with"

To this I said quietly, "No, of course, I won't argue Arabic with you, and indeed I do not argue the question at all, only as your good friend I would inform you that the English text is beyond dispute, and I would again, as the Sultan's well-wisher, most earnestly entreat you not to make the Moorish Government ridiculous in this matter. The Sultan has had notice of the affair all this time and never made the slightest objection. The British Government did His Majesty a courtesy and favour, and now the Sultan reciprocates their action by impounding the properties of the person whom the British Government had honoured at his behest. Who would ever have imagined such a thing! Why did not the Sultan object at the time the Memorandum was handed to him?" Ben Sliman answered, "The Sultan did reproach Kaïd Maclean at the time, but His Majesty, I suppose, out of regard for the Kaïd, did not wish to affront him in the eyes of the British Government, but His Majesty never consented to it, never, never, never!"

"Impossible," I answered, "are business things done in that fashion? The Sultan could easily have objected without making any reflection on Kaïd Maclean; I need not suggest to you how many quite inoffensive and good-natured ways this could have been done, for you are familiar with such affairs. The Sultan's not making known to the British Government any objection to the subject matter of the Memorandum, and His Majesty's actually thanking them for it (which His Majesty admits), without comment, cannot reasonably be understood in any other way than that he did consent to it. Now, answer me this, supposing it had been you to whom this paper had been

delivered, and you had made no observation on it to the British Government, could you have justified yourself to the Sultan?"

The Vizier replied, "But I am one person and the Sultan is another—can I make rules for him?" And then hurriedly, and half choking with passion, went on, "The Sultan's purpose is to make known to the British Government the truth about Menebhi: this man who but yesterday was merely a shepherd wandering about in tattered clothes, and after enriching himself with public money, the money of the Moorish people, turned the country upside down, and then shamelessly goes about here and there scattering this money right and left in theatres and feasts and largesses. The Sultan is determined to stop it, and to do his utmost to preserve to his people what is left of Menebhi's accumulations. If His Majesty did otherwise the whole country would rebel, he cannot disregard his subjects feelings."

I answered that all this had nothing to do with us. Our Government had acted with the Sultan's consent, and it was unheard of that their friendship should be answered thus, and an end must be put to the present state of things. "So I must again insist on an answer being given, complying with the terms of Mr. White's note."

Ben Sliman then broke into another tirade against Menebhi, all in the above strain, to which I answered that this was not what Mr. White had written about, and I could not discuss it.

Ben Sliman then answered, "Well, I am going on with the preparation of the answer to Mr. White's letter, and it will be ready for delivery to you to-morrow night." I thanked him and said I hoped there would be no mistake about this, for already the delay in answering it had been considerable—indeed, I had expected now; to which he replied that it would be with me to-morrow night without fail.

You will have seen that the Court's case has been essentially this. That we had no proof of the delivery of the intimation of Menebhi's protection, except the allegations of Kaïd Maclean, which they affected to disbelieve; and they appeared to rely on pitting the Sultan's word against the Kaid's. By your narrative, too, of the facts (as given in your letter of the 2nd August to me) this was actually the case, if the Sultan persisted in repudiating receipt of the document you mentioned, and denounced as fictions the verbal messages you mention; it therefore appeared to me important to procure, if possible, such proof as would make that contention impossible.

This I thought the procuring of a copy of Lord Lansdowne's letter on the subject would afford; and I should not wonder if Ben Sliman's manifest uneasiness in the interview herein reported is due to his feeling that the Sultan has given away a strong piece of evidence against himself. The Vizier (as already reported) saw the Sultan just before I did, and probably coached him as to what to say. His questions (herein reported), as to its being I and not the Sultan who first mentioned the Memorandum, seemed to me to indicate that he suspected that the Sultan had said more than the Vizier had advised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 367.

Cid Abdelkrim Ben Sliman to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

YOUR letter of the 18th instant (Jumad 1st) reached, stating your surprise at the information you had received of the embargo having been laid on the properties of El Mehedi El Menebhi at Alcazar, through the intermediary of the officials of the town, which it appears to you has been done by them without authority from His Shereefian Majesty, as you imagine that His Shereefian Majesty knows perfectly well that the said Mehedi is under British protection, and that interference with him or his properties is a breach of Treaty stipulations, &c. I informed His Shereefian Majesty of your letter, and so soon as he had read it His Majesty (compliments) was most surprised at its contents, and he was the first, and most rightly, to be amazed at what you stated in this letter, as it contains a matter the possibility of which could not be imagined by the officials of the Shereefian Government, nor the existence of a foundation on which it could be based; and His Majesty instructed me to reply to you, that it is not hidden that this Menebhi and his Kabila belong to the Jioosh

(military force confined to Makhzen service) since the time of the sanctified ancestors of our Lord and are still so; and it is not hidden that the said Menebhi is still required to pay the revenues of the matters with which he was charged, and that the action of the Alcazar officials was by Makhzen instructions issued to them; and the Makhzen still intends to speak about what it has heard has been done by your agent, Bibi Carleton, at Alcazar in violating what had been carried out by the officials there forcibly, in the manner of robbery, and making improper remarks about the Shereefian Makhzen and its officials.

Similar Shereefian orders to those sent to the officials at Alcazar have been sent to the other officials in the districts where the aforesaid Menebhi has properties, and this is with the object of protecting them from disposal and dissipation, for causes which necessitate it; as it is not hidden from the glorious British Government and others, not to mention the high and low of this Maghrebine Empire, the moneys of the Makhzen and its treasures he has dealt with and especially those which were guarded by (?) the Sid Hamed Ben Musa, which he kept for himself and took possession of, ostensibly to expend it in the interests of the Makhzen, until (quite) recently the treachery and deceit he was committing towards His Shereefian Majesty has been proved against him, as regards the moneys of the Government and its policy, and the demolition of the supports of its Empire and his efforts for the causes of bringing about the extinction of this Shereefian Empire, all of which if only one-tenth were proven against any one in any of the nations he would certainly merit thereby perpetual punishment for the term of his life; not to mention safeguarding property which he claims as his, especially as it is well known to all that all he possesses belongs to the Makhzen only and is theirs alone, and no two will dispute as to this.

Moreover, all the visible properties which the Makhzen had sent an order to embargo and safeguard will not cover the tenth of a tenth of what he is pursued for, and for the extraction of the major part which he still has hidden; and by his evil conduct the Shereefian Government has reached the condition which is not hidden from any one. How is it possible for any Government to remain silent about one who was supposed to give good advice and against whom a portion of these treacheries has been proved? And because of the proof against him of what is stated, it was incumbent to hasten to safeguard what remains visible of the opulence (riches) he had acquired from the treasures of the Makhzen and the contributions of the people which had ruined them, and he imagines that his devices of attaching himself to the respected British Government will save him from the necessary payment. Far be it from the said Government if this is proved to it that it should agree that it should be said of it that it attempted to take away a Makhzen servant from the hands of the Makhzen or prevent him paying the dues owing by him. As regards your statement that His Shereefian Majesty is well aware that the said individual is under British protection, His Majesty has instructed me to reply to you about this phrase, that he was not aware of this at all, much less was he well aware, and he is surprised at your statement of your conviction that His Majesty has certain knowledge of the validity of the protection of the said Makhazni, as it is not hidden that this matter is of immense importance, and that it is one that it is difficult to conceive; and the fright that the mere hearing of it would cause to the people, and perplexity to their minds, and the opening of doors of irregularity it would be difficult to close, and a harm whose remedy would be difficult. I therefore ask you, by desire of His Shereefian Majesty, to transmit this reply to the glorious friendly British Government, so that it may further understand the real state of this Makhazni and the evident right the Shereefian Government has in the Shereefian orders it issued regarding the said individual, and it is expected of it (the British Government) that it will give attention to the observance of the rights of this Shereefian Government and of the rights of its subjects as is known of its justice to the strong and the weak.

May you rest,
(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

25 *Jumad* 1, 1322 (*8th August*, 1904).

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 368.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 144.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 12, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 140 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that the French Minister has informed me that all the required conditions in regard to the loan having now been fulfilled by the Moorish Government, and the system of control being in operation, the Moorish Government will be authorized to draw upon the loan from the 18th of this month.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 369.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 145.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 14, 1904.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 143 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note which I have addressed to Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, informing him that, British protection having once been granted to Sid-el-Menebhi, cannot be withdrawn, and that in granting the protection His Majesty's Government had every reason to believe that they were acting in accordance with the express wish of the Sultan; that should there be any claims or accusations the Moorish Government have to bring against him, the British Representative should be informed thereof, and he will institute a thorough inquiry without delay. In conclusion, I warned Sid-ben-Sliman that should Sid-el-Menebhi suffer any injury in person or property pending such inquiry the Moorish Government will be held responsible.

Sid-el-Menebhi naturally feels very keenly the persecution which his connections and employés are suffering on his account.

His brother, who was Governor of his tribe, has been arrested and cast into prison at Marrakesh, all his property being confiscated, and others of his connections are said to be suffering similar treatment. He is particularly concerned at the arrest of his Confidential Secretary, Hadj Hamed Jaai, who has always been with him, and who has now been sent in chains presumably to Fez, where he will probably be exposed to cruel treatment, in the hopes of extorting from him confessions which may tend to incriminate Sid-el-Menebhi, and information as to the riches he is supposed to have concealed.

The only charge against him, so far as I am aware, is that he has not rendered an account of his administration of moneys alleged to have been paid to him when he was left in command of Taza on Sid-el-Menebhi's being summoned to Fez to conduct the Sultan to Taza during the campaign against the Pretender last year. On the other hand, Sid-el-Menebhi assures me positively that Hadj Hamed Jaai had nothing whatever to do with the payment of the troops on that occasion, and has never held any Government post, his command at Taza having been merely a temporary appointment made by himself, and not by the Sultan or Moorish Government.

It is also notorious that there was very little money at Taza for payment of the troops, the Sultan not having been able to send them any, as they were closely besieged.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 369.

Mr. White to Sid-ben-Sliman.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 1 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 14, 1904).

I HAVE duly received your Excellency's letter of the 25th Jumad I (8th instant) in reply to that I addressed to you on the 1st instant regarding the embargo of the properties of Sid-el-Menebhi.

I lost no time in communicating to His Majesty's Government, by telegraph, all that your Excellency states therein, and His Majesty's Government have taken it into consideration, and have instructed me to inform you, in reply, that British protection having once been accorded cannot be withdrawn, and that at the time they granted their protection to Sid-el-Menebhi they had every reason to believe that it was at the express wish of the Sultan that it was done. Should there be any claims or accusations that the Moorish Government have to bring against the said Sid-el-Menebhi, they should inform the British Representative, and a thorough inquiry will be instituted by him in the matter without delay.

It must, however, be clearly understood by the Moorish Government that, under these circumstances, should Sid-el-Menebhi suffer any injury either in his person or property pending such inquiry, they will be held responsible by His Majesty's Government.

May you rest.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 370.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 146.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 15, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 135 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French Minister informs me that, according to the news which reaches him from Ujdah, the situation of the Sultan's troops there is not so bad as it has been supposed. Kasbah-Ayoun-Sidi-Mellouk has been reoccupied by Government troops, and the Pretender has fallen back somewhat, while Bu Amama has not accomplished anything.

There are reports of several skirmishes having occurred, but with no results of any importance.

Sid Requina has been recalled to Fez, the Sultan, it is said, being displeased at his having reported that the troops had evacuated Kasbah-el-Ayoun owing to their being without pay, whereas it is alleged at the Court that large sums were sent to Ujdah for the payment of the troops. Sid Abderahman Abdesadok, Basha of Fez, who arrived here a few days ago from the Court, will proceed shortly to Ujdah to take over the command in succession to Sid Requina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 371.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 147.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 15, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a meeting of the tribes around Tangier was called by a letter emanating from the Beni-Msour tribe, and purporting to be at the request of all the tribes. Yesterday, the 14th instant, was named as the date of the meeting, and a Saint house some 8 miles from Tangier was to be the rendezvous.

It appears, from information I have received, that the object of the meeting was to discuss and protest against the demolition of an old fort at the Tangier custom-house, and the appointment of the agents of the French loan to superintend the Customs' receipts.

A large number of the tribesmen responded to the call, but, as the principal men of the tribes were not present, the meeting passed off quietly, and nothing appears to have been done in regard to the subjects which were to have been discussed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 372.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 148.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 16, 1904.

WHEN the news of the action of the Moorish Government in regard to Sid-el-Menebhi's property first reached me, I called upon the French Minister and placed him in possession of the facts of the case, explaining that, as the incident was of some gravity and might give rise to a troublesome question, I thought it well to acquaint him with it at once.

M. Saint René Taillandier thanked me for the communication, and observed that the incident was very unfortunate, but nothing further was said on the subject by either of us at the time, and, so far as I know, no advice tending to a solution of the matter was given at the Court by the Acting French Vice-Consul.

In the absence of instructions from your Lordship, I did not feel authorized to revert to the subject with the French Minister. Yesterday, however, I again called upon him, acquainted him with the present position, and said that we would be very glad if he could see his way to co-operating with me in seeking to bring about a satisfactory solution.

M. Saint René Taillandier stated that he had already reported on the matter to his Government, but had not been placed in possession of their views; he would, however, telegraph acquainting them with the request I had just made, and would ask instructions.

He inquired whether I could suggest what form his co-operation should take. I rephed that I was without instructions on that point, but that the reply I had been directed to return to Sid-ben-Sliman's note made the position taken up by His Majesty's Government sufficiently clear, and I suggested that possibly he might be able to make the Sultan understand that His Majesty's action was indefensible, and that it was in his own best interests to endeavour to restore matters as far as possible to their proper position, by at once removing the embargo placed on Sid Menebhi's property, and then bringing to the knowledge of the British Representative any accusations or claims His Majesty might have against him.

M. Saint René Taillandier observed that in order to take such a step it appeared to him that he should first satisfy himself of the validity of the protection claimed to have been given to Sid-el-Menebhi. The granting of foreign protection to an official in the position occupied by Sid-el-Menebhi was in itself so abnormal and so extraordinary that it seemed to him to require close examination, and the fact that the Sultan's consent had been obtained, required, to use his words, to be proved twice over. He went on to say that he also had his doubts whether the protection could be held valid, even if it were proved that the Sultan's consent had been obtained, as the protection of an influential Vizier, like Sid-el-Menebhi, was a breach of the stipulations of the Madrid Convention, and he referred to a clause in Article XVI of that Convention providing for previous notice of protection being given to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Tangier.

I observed that Morocco is not a constitutional monarchy. The Sultan is in himself the Government, and as the Sultan and the British Government, the two Parties to the Treaty, had agreed to the grant of the protection as an exception, the protection is valid, even though contrary to the terms of that Treaty.

To this M. Saint René Taillandier replied that the Madrid Convention was not merely a Treaty between Great Britain and Morocco, and that all the Powers who were Signatories must be held to be interested in the observance of its clauses. He did not go so far as to say that one Power had the right to scrutinize the lists of protégés of another, and to object to any name therein, but the case of a protection granted to a High Court official was entirely exceptional.

The French Minister again observed that he had merely expressed to me his own personal views, which he had placed before me in all frankness, but that he did not know what the opinion of his Government might be.

I have thought it advisable to report the conversation to your Lordship in full, as doubtless M. Saint René Taillandier will have placed his views before his Government, and I fear, if they are approved in Paris, a satisfactory solution of this question will not be rendered more easy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 373.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 149.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 16, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter addressed by the mountain tribes to the foreign Representatives at Tangier, protesting against the alleged intention of the French Government to land troops at Tangier and other Moorish ports, and requesting that steps be taken to prevent this, as otherwise disturbances will ensue.

The foreign Representatives are taking no notice of this letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 373.

Chiefs of Mountain Tribes to Foreign Representatives.

(Traduction.)

LOUANGES à Dieu unique.

De la part des tribus Musulmanes des montagnes à toutes les autorités et Chefs des Puissances étrangères, à savoir: les Représentants d'Angleterre, d'Allemagne, d'Amérique, d'Italie, d'Espagne, de Russie, de Portugal, de Belgique, d'Autriche-Hongrie, et à tous les autres (Représentants étrangers).

Que Dieu vous garde, vous comble toujours de ses bienfaits, et vous accorde tout ce qui est avantageux; qu'il éloigne de vous toute cause de mal; et après :—

Il est arrivé à notre connaissance une nouvelle qui se répand et devient publique suivant laquelle les Français veulent le désordre dans notre Moghreb, et s'efforcent de provoquer des troubles sur la terre, et ceci en plaçant leurs soldats à faire la garde dans les ports Musulmans, étant déterminés de faire débarquer leurs troupes à Tanger, ainsi que vous en êtes informés.

Ceci ne nous convient pas, et ne vous convient pas à vous-mêmes. Chaque fois qu'ils débarqueront (quelques-uns des leurs) les montagnards s'exciteront et des fautes seront commises à votre égard, tandis que nous désirons voir régner entre vous et nous la bonne harmonie, qui n'a cessé de durer depuis bien longtemps; ceci s'est ce qu'il vous convient; vous êtes doués de grande sagesse et ne désirez que le bien; vous n'approuverez pas ce qui renferme une offense pour vous et une insousiance à l'égard de vos Gouvernements.

Si vous réfléchissez sur les conséquences (de ce que les Français veulent faire) vous ne donnerez pas votre consentement, vu surtout l'état troublé du Moghreb depuis des années, ainsi que vous le savez. Aussi laisseriez-vous les Français faire ce qu'ils veulent, que vous vous en repentirez une fois qu'ils auraient atteint leur bout. Il est donc nécessaire que vous parliez avec eux (les Français) d'une façon bien claire; peut-être ils penseront, ou ils redouteront et s'écarteront du mauvais chemin conduisant à une situation qui ferait mal tourner vos affaires et les nôtres. De toute façon, les Musulmans sages agissent avec calme dans leurs affaires, mais les insensés chaque fois qu'ils les verront débarquer (les Français) il s'ensuivra des combats et la guerre.

Voilà ce que nous avons à vous faire savoir.

Écrit le 25 *Joumada* 1re, 1322 (*le* 11 *Août*, 1904).

D'ordre des autorités et des Chefs des tribus montagnardes. Nous vous prions de remettre au porteur la réponse que vous croirez de nous faire.

No. 374.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 150. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 16, 1904.

SID-EL-MENEBHI has informed me that he has received reliable information that an attempt is being made to have him assassinated. One of his companions to Mecca was a Fez Moor resident here, who has relations with Hadj Omar Tazi, brother of Sheikh Tazi, Minister of Finance. This Moor informed Sid-el-Menebhi that he had received from Hadj Omar Tazi the sum of 10,000 dollars to be used in bribing some person to shoot him. He said he had replied declining to mix himself up in a matter of this nature, but he warned Sid-el-Menebhi that he knew that Hadj Omar Tazi had also written to another person in Tangier to the same effect, forwarding another sum of 10,000 dollars for the purpose. Sid-el-Menebhi begged me to keep this information secret, as his friend would suffer for it should it be discovered that he had betrayed Hadj Omar Tazi. He has no doubt whatever as to the genuineness of this attempt to assassinate him, as the Tazi family are amassing great wealth at present, all the most lucrative posts being held by them, and they have every reason to dread Sid-el-Menebhi's return to power, and would stop at nothing to prevent him from meeting the Sultan and possibly regaining His Majesty's favour.

Sid-el-Menebhi feels that his life can never be safe in this country, even were the question of his protection and the charges and claims against him satisfactorily settled, and he is in great fear as to what may happen to his family should he be killed, for his sons and daughter are still quite young, and his brother and nephew, who is his confidential agent in the south, have been cast into prison. He says it will be impossible for him to carry on farming operations on the large properties he possesses, as his agents and employés would not be protected, and would be liable to be arrested at any moment, so that his interests would suffer.

Under the circumstances he has come to the conclusion that his only course is to realize all his property and leave this country to settle in Egypt, and he has suggested that a compromise might perhaps be come to with the Moorish Government that his properties be taken over by the Sultan in whole or in part at a fair valuation, or that he be permitted to sell them to others, and that, as soon as he has realized all his property, he should leave Morocco for Egypt. This solution would probably be acceptable to the officials at the Court, once it is made clear to them that Sid-el-Menebhi's protection cannot be withdrawn and his property cannot be touched, save by order of the British authorities, after full investigation of any claims that may be brought forward. The principal object the Viziers have in view is to prevent Sid-el-Menebhi from returning to the Court and regaining the Sultan's favour, and any solution which will secure that would probably be acceptable to them. The Sultan would be unwilling to see the property released, but His Majesty would have no course but to consent, if it were made clear that the British Government would not allow it to be confiscated without full proof of His Majesty's claim to it.

On the other hand, the French Government will perhaps not be adverse to a solution of the matter on these lines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 375.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 16, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of the reply I have received from Sid-ben-Sliman to my letter of the 5th instant, regarding the embargo laid on Sid-el-Menebhi's property at Fez, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 138 of the 5th instant.

In this letter Sid-ben-Sliman merely refers me to his letter of the 8th instant, translation of which I had the honour to forward to your Lordship in my despatch No. 143 of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 375.

Sid-ben-Sliman to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 27 *Jumad I*, 1322 (*August* 10, 1904).

WE received your letter of the 22nd instant, relative to the matter of the properties of el-Menebhi at Alcazar, about which you had previously written, stating that you had thought that the action had been taken by the Alcazar officials under a misapprehension, but that then it was shown that Shereefian orders had been issued to the said officials and others to the same effect, and that guards were placed on his house at Fez and trusting that [the matter will be set right ?].

I took note of this, having informed His Majesty thereof, and I have already replied to you on the 25th of this month to your first letter on the subject, giving a statement of the facts and the orders given by our Lord about this matter, and by studying what I stated the truth of what I disclosed will be clear to you.

May you rest, &c.

No. 376.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 121. Confidential.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, August* 18, 1904.

THE Queen, in her conversation to me yesterday, alluded to the negotiations with France about Morocco, and said, interrogatively, that she feared Señor San Pedro was somewhat slow and lawyer-like in them.

I did not respond to this personal allusion, but said that the very regrettable delay appeared in great measure the result of the Governments having been at cross-purposes, and that the English Government had done its best to remove these misunderstandings with some result, as, from my last conversation with the French Ambassador and Señor San Pedro, I now trusted that the matter in dispute would be postponed till after the signature of the general Agreement, and until it was judged to be ripe for discussion and solution—consequently that I was becoming hopeful that after the holidays (that is to say in six weeks) the dangerous delay would be over and the Agreement signed.

Her Majesty seemed to be of the same opinion.

I was aware that just before the French Ambassador's leaving for France he had spoken openly and with some warmth of the difficulties raised by Señor San Pedro and the Spanish negotiator, and the danger of the delay, and it appeared to me that the Queen, whom circumstances have made, I think, of a suspicious nature, was anxious to see if I was a French partisan.

The satisfactory impression I gathered from Her Majesty's language is that she is now sincerely anxious for the conclusion of the Agreement with France respecting Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 377.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1904.

CASE of Sid Menebhi.

Your telegrams Nos. 113 and 115 of the 20th and 21st instant.

You have permission to retain "Minerva."

Admiralty do not object to landing of marines if the necessity should arise, and Commander is being instructed accordingly.

You should consult your French colleague with regard to the communication you propose making to Sid Torres.

We are drawing attention of French Embassy to fact that French Minister has not yet been authorized to lend you his co-operation.

No. 378.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 24, 1904.

THE announcement in the "Times" newspaper that Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres had resigned is not correct.

No. 379.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 24, 1904.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 49 of the 23rd instant.

I informed M. Saint René Taillandier of the proposed communication on the subject of Sid-el-Menebhi, he stated that he had no objection to it, but suggested that, instead of actually mentioning that marines would be landed, it would be better merely to say that, in the event of the guarantee not being given, steps would be taken for his protection. I replied that this would minimize the chances of a satisfactory reply being sent; and that Sid Torres would more probably give the assurances required of him, if it were clearly stated beforehand what steps we intended to take, and the chances of having actually to carry them out would be smaller. I pointed out that in the case of the Moorish authorities little effect is produced by vague language.

When my letter is delivered to Sid Torres, the French Minister has consented to send a verbal and unofficial message to him pointing out that a false step would be made if it is attempted to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, and that a much more serious situation would thereby be produced.

As rumours are current that orders have been sent to the Basha here to endeavour to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, it is expedient that something should be done to prevent this without delay; I beg, therefore, to be informed whether your Lordship authorizes me to address the proposed letter to Sid Torres.

I would also, subject to your Lordship's approval, propose to acquaint Ben-Sliman with my communication to the Sultan's Deputy here.

No. 380.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 24, 1904.

MENEBHI. My immediately preceding telegram.

Since sending the above M. Saint René Taillandier has spoken to me again about the proposed communication to Sid Torres. He said that, after reflection, he fears it might give rise to trouble if marines were landed, and that, therefore, he feels he must maintain his objection to this being explicitly threatened. I mentioned that no excitement was created lately when some marines were landed from the American men-of-war. He considers, however, that the cases are not similar, and he has requested me to merely state vaguely in my letter that, unless the required guarantee is given, we will take steps to see that Sid-el-Menebhi is protected. This being so, I think it would be wise to point out that His Majesty's ship "Minerva" is being detained here on Sid-el-Menebhi's account.

No. 381.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 24, 1904.

YOUR telegrams Nos. 117 and 118 of to-day.

Case of Sid Menebhi.

Out of deference to opinion of the French Minister, you may address communication to Sid Torres in terms suggested in your telegram No. 118, mentioning fact of "Minerva" being detained in connection with case.

No. 382.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received August* 25.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, August* 24, 1904.

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 22nd instant, forwarding a copy of a telegram to the Senior Naval Officer at Tangier relative to the stationing of a Marine Guard at Menebhi's house for his protection, on the requisition of His Majesty's Consul and subject to French co-operation being assured, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you to inform the Marquess of Lansdowne that, if it is probable that the affording of such protection will be anything more than a quite temporary necessity, their Lordships would be glad if arrangements could be made to relieve the Marine Guard from the garrison at Gibraltar, it being most undesirable that any one of His Majesty's ships should be rendered ineffective by the withdrawal for any length of time of a portion of her crew.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. I. THOMAS.

No. 383.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 462.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 25, 1904.

THE French Ambassador called here to-day, and, in the course of conversation with Mr. Villiers, referred to affairs in Morocco.

His Excellency expressed himself as strongly opposed to the proposal of landing marines for the protection of El Menebhi. He considered that it would have a bad effect, and, in the midst of an excitable population, might lead to disagreeable incidents.

M. Cambon said that if Menebhi were in real danger, he could take refuge on board one of His Majesty's ships. Mr. Villiers suggested that there might not be time for Menebhi to accomplish this, but his Excellency would not admit that as likely.

M. Cambon maintained that the protection accorded to Menebhi was irregular and would never be admitted by the Moorish Government.

Mr. Villiers informed his Excellency that His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires and the French Minister at Tangier were in close communication in regard to the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 384.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 26.)

(No. 119.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 26, 1904.

MENEBHI. Your Lordship's telegram No. 50 of yesterday.

In his reply to the letter I addressed to him yesterday in the sense indicated, Sid Torres merely stated that he had no knowledge of the matter. I accordingly repeated in a second letter my request for the required assurances. As the Moorish Council does not sit on Friday I have not yet received a reply to the latter. I have,

however, received a private letter from the French Minister in which he tells me that he is in a position to assure me that as yet no order to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi has come from the Court, and that even should one arrive no action will be taken on it till the matter has again been referred to the Sultan. Pending the receipt of Sid Torres' reply the situation is relieved by this assurance given by the French Minister.

No. 385.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 152.)

My Lord. *Tangier, August* 20, 1904.

THE Spanish papers publish a telegram from Sidi-bel-Abbas, dated the 17th instant, reporting that a French column was making a reconnaissance in Moorish territory, and had reached Wad Za, some 50 miles inside the frontier, when it was attacked, and suffered some casualties, and that a second column was being formed to march to its assistance.

I took an opportunity of inquiring of the French Minister as to the truth of this report, for he had previously told me that, whilst they have always been ready to assist the Sultan's forces at Oujdah as much as possible, even lending individual officers or artillerymen, they have been careful to keep their troops within their own borders.

M. Saint-René Taillandier replied that he had received news of the dispatch of this column into Moorish territory by agreement with Sid Rekina, whose forces were simultaneously to attack Bu Amama, but that the French troops were merely to afford indirect support, and were not to join in the fighting. He understood, however, that Bu Amama's position was found to be too strong, and Rekina had not delivered any attack, and no news had reached him of any attack on the French column, which, he said, was further south than Wad Za.

M. Saint-René Taillandier added, confidentially, that he considered the presence of French troops on Moorish territory very imprudent and undesirable, as it might incite the frontier tribes, and give rise to complications. The frontier is sufficiently well defined in that neighbourhood, and he trusted that this column would soon be withdrawn, and that in future their troops would keep on their own territory.

M. Saint-René Taillandier said the only news of interest he had received from Oujdah lately was a report of the massacre of the Pretender's chief lieutenant, Sid Salah, and a number of his most influential adherents, who, it appears, had been sent to the Beni Bou Zeggu tribe to win them over to his cause by asking for a wife from their tribe. They were well received, and then treacherously murdered. Their loss will be a severe blow to the Pretender, who is said to be very ill, requiring two men to support him when he rises.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 386.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 153.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 21, 1904.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that Sid-ben-Sliman sent for him on the evening of the 15th instant, and informed him that he had been ordered by the Sultan to request him to let me know that His Majesty had received information that Sid-el-Menebhi had been and still was in correspondence with Reissouli, and with the tribes in the south, inciting them to rebel against the Sultan, and that His Majesty therefore desired to warn me of this, and protested against it, giving notice that on the first act of insubordination on the part of Reissouli or of the southern tribes Sid-el-Menebhi would be arrested and his properties would be seized by the Moorish authorities, as the Sultan considered he must protect himself and his subjects from the consequences of Sid-el-Menebhi's intrigues. Sid-ben-Sliman added that out of consideration for the British Government Sid-el-Menebhi had not yet been arrested, nor had his properties been confiscated, but that this forbearance could not continue if any trouble arose with Reissouli or with the southern tribes.

When Sid-ben-Sliman had concluded the Sultan's message, Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod inquired whether the Moorish Government had any proof in support of these charges.

His Excellency replied that the proofs would be forthcoming, and that more would be heard of this affair, but that he would not discuss it in the meantime.

Mr. MacLeod pointed out to Sid-ben-Sliman the extreme gravity of this communication, especially the threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, and wished to be quite sure he had not misunderstood it. His Excellency then repeated the message in the same terms, and added that those were the Sultan's own words; then, repeating the request that they should be commnnicated to me, he rose to end the interview.

Mr. MacLeod on leaving informed Sid-ben-Sliman that he would call upon him again very shortly to speak of this matter, as it was of great gravity.

This message from the Sultan has as yet only been communicated to me privately by Mr. MacLeod, who said he postponed reporting officially until he should have seen Sid-ben-Sliman again. Up to the present time, however, I have received no further report from him on the subject, and as the message was delivered formally by Sid-ben-Sliman, and is of considerable gravity, I deem it my duty to lose no further time in reporting it to your Lordship.

I took an early opportunity of seeing Sid-el-Menebhi and inquiring whether there were any circumstances which could lend a shadow of foundation to these charges. He assured me most positively that there were none. He declared that no communications whatever had passed between himself and Reissouli, and that he had taken no steps whatever to incite the southern tribes to rebellion. He could, he said, have raised the whole country against the Government, but I had told him he must do nothing, and he had followed my instructions. He had even written to his own relations and fellow-tribesmen to remain quiet and submit to the Government, when his brother and other connections were arrested and their properties seized. In regard to the other southern tribes and their Governors, he had on his arrival received some letters of welcome and congratulation on his return, they were purely personal letters of a non-political character, and he had replied merely expressing his thanks. He had also received other letters—some of which he had shown me at the time—complaining of the state of the country, and begging him on arriving at the Court to bring it to the knowledge of the Sultan, with a view to their grievances being remedied. To these letters he had sent no reply, as they were written in the belief that he was still in the Sultan's favour and would be able to assist the writers. I may observe that, at the time of showing me these letters, Sid-el-Menebhi said he did not intend to reply to them.

I called subsequently upon the French Minister and acquainted him with the substance of the Sultan's message to me, observing that it would be impossible to allow His Majesty to carry out his threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi. M. Saint René-Taillandier informed me that he had communicated to his Government my request for his co-operation, and had reported to them on the situation, placing them in possession of his own views thereon, but that up to the present he was without any instructions; he had merely been informed that, in the absence of M. Cambon, M. Geoffray had been instructed to speak to your Lordship on the subject. On my suggestion, however, M. Saint René-Taillandier consented to make a representation to the Moorish Government in regard to the threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, pointing out to them that such action would be entirely unwarrantable.

Sid-el-Menebhi for some days has not left his house, owing to the private warnings he has received that an attempt will probably be made upon his life, for were he to go out it would be impossible for him to protect himself from assassination.

Should an attempt be made to arrest him in his house, there would undoubtedly be bloodshed, for resistance would be offered by himself and his men. I would venture to submit that it is desirable to make the local authorities at Tangier, as well as the Sultan, clearly understand that no attempt to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi will be tolerated, and I am of opinion that the only way to insure his safety and to prevent the possibility of an attempt to arrest him by force in his house, is to warn them that he will be protected by force if necessary. The presence of His Majesty's ship "Minerva" in the bay might be utilized for this purpose, and, after previous communication with the French Minister, I might inform Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres that, unless he can give me an assurance in writing that Sid-el-Menebhi will not be arrested, a guard of marines will be landed for his protection.

It is with the greatest diffidence that I venture to suggest this course, the gravity of which I fully realize; but all reports received from the south for some time past agree that disturbances will almost certainly break out as soon as the harvest operations are concluded, that is to say at any moment now, and should the Sultan carry out his threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, this already delicate and difficult case will be greatly complicated, for he would be immediately transported to Fez, and possibly shot on the way, on the

excuse that an attempt had been made to rescue him. It therefore appears to me necessary to take steps at once to prevent this threat being carried into execution. On the other hand I have little doubt that Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres would give the required guarantee; and even should he not be authorized to do so, the presence of a small guard of marines would, I am convinced, be sufficient to prevent any attempt to enter the premises to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi. The house stands in a garden surrounded by a high wall, the guard would be stationed inside the walls and be out of sight of the public.

Decisive action of this nature on the part of His Majesty's Government would also, I believe, render the Moorish Government more reasonable in regard to the whole question, of which it would facilitate the solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 386.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean to Mr. White.

(Private.) *August* 14, 1904.

YESTERDAY I spoke to the Sultan about England. I said he must not think we are not his friends. His Majesty replied that he did not mind what agreement we came to with France, but what he did mind and felt very much was our not having said a word to him about it. That at the time we were his greatest friends, and knew he had done all he could against the French, and should have given him warning of what we intended doing, instead of springing such a thunderbolt on him unawares. That he had told the above to Count Saint Aulaire, and had added he was not under English protection, and that we had no rights of any kind over him, so how could our Government make these arrangements. That Saint Aulaire had told this to the French Minister, who had written to say he agreed with the Sultan that we had treated him very badly, and that the Minister was delighted to hear we had no rights over him of any kind, as they thought we had.

Many thanks for your letters Nos. 4 and 5. If they do bring charges against Menebhi, some of them are sure to be so preposterous that it will make a farce of the whole thing. I will tell the Sultan from myself you say in your letter to me His Majesty should receive all charges against Menebhi with the greatest caution.

When I returned from England in 1902 I took all the private letters to the Sultan in a sealed envelope, and broke the seal in his presence. We were in camp, and I gave him all the letters I had. I only had one copy of the Memorandum, and I was instructed to ask His Majesty to return it. In my letter No. 1 to Sir A. Nicolson I told him His Shereefian Majesty said he could not, and that he would put it among his most precious possessions, and not a soul should see it. The other day the Sultan offered to show the Memorandum he had, but did not like doing so; and owing to the present state of affairs, I considered it unsafe its being known that he had asked for protection, particularly as privately I do not believe in the loyalty of several of his Ministers. I thought it better to ask you to send me a copy, which I would have shown to His Majesty and asked him to verify.

No. 387.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 21, 1904.

SINCE closing my immediately preceding despatch I have received a despatch from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informing me that he had delivered to Sid-ben-Sliman my letter of the 14th instant, translation of which was inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 145 of the 14th instant, communicating to his Excellency the reply of His Majesty's Government to his letter regarding Sid-el-Menebhi.

Sid-ben-Sliman read the letter, and said he would submit it to the Sultan.

Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod then reverted to the message from the Sultan he had been desired to convey to me containing the threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi. He informed him he had only conveyed the message to me in a private form as yet, and had deferred

reporting it formally, pending further discussion with his Excellency, as he felt sure the Sultan had not realized its full significance.

After some conversation on the subject Sid-ben-Sliman said "I think you did well not to report the message officially just then. The message was in the words you quote, but assuredly the Sultan had not the remotest idea that there could, as I admit there could, be an offensive meaning in them. God forbid! The Sultan's idea was merely to mention the information His Majesty had received and to call the Chargé d'Affaires' attention to it, to the end that he might keep an eye on Menebhi, and make sure that he attempted no intrigues of that kind."

Mr. MacLeod observed that this was very different to the actual words of the message, and that, in order to prevent confusion, if any message of the kind were to be sent, it should be in writing.

Sid-ben-Sliman replied that he would report the conversation to the Sultan and ask for instructions, repeating he was glad Mr. MacLeod had deferred conveying the message to me formally.

It seems evident to me that on reading my letter above referred to Sid-ben-Sliman at once realized that the Sultan had gone too far in threatening to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, and was glad to avail himself of the opening offered to him by Mr. MacLeod to retire from an untenable position. At the same time the message was formally delivered and was communicated to me, as Sid-ben-Sliman has been told, though not in an official despatch, and there has been no formal withdrawal of the message, or engagement not to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi; and, I fear, were I to ignore the message, a bad effect would be produced, and later on the Sultan might even cause Sid-el-Menebhi to be arrested, and argue that I had been duly informed of the intention and made no reply. I am therefore still of opinion that the course suggested in my preceding despatch would have a good effect, and would probably hasten the settlement of the whole question.

The embargo upon all Sid-el-Menebhi's properties has been strictly maintained, and the Moorish Government as yet show no disposition to raise it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 388.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 27, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 119 of yesterday.

I have received to-day from the Sultan's Deputy here a letter from Sid-ben-Sliman, in which he incloses a long letter to your Lordship's address dated the 15th instant. The Minister for Foreign Affairs reiterates the charges made against Sid-el-Menebhi, and suggests that his protection be withdrawn. When it has been translated I will telegraph to your Lordship the substance of this note. Sid Torres in his note says there is no longer any necessity for his giving the assurances I requested now that I have received Sid-ben-Sliman's letter. To this I sent a verbal answer that Sid-ben-Sliman's letter contains no sort of assurance, and I requested an explicit answer as to whether or not he would give me the assurances which, acting under your Lordship's instructions, I had asked for. The Sultan's Deputy has now replied that the Sultan alone can do this, and that he is unable to give the required assurances.

M. Saint René Taillandier, whom I have seen, is still averse to our landing marines which, he thinks, may occasion disturbances, and would be injurious to the position which the French have acquired under the Anglo-French Agreement.

He begs me to say that the matter will probably be discussed with your Lordship by the French Ambassador, as he has reported thereon to his Government.

On the 20th instant he wrote on the subject to Fez, and he is prepared to write again; he has no doubt that the Court will give the assurances we require.

I observed that we should be placed in a very false position if we were to take no steps now; a very bad precedent would be created, and the Moorish Government would in future think that any representation we may have to make may be disregarded. M. Saint René Taillandier admitted that this was true.

If, in deference to the objections of the French Minister, it is the desire of your Lordship that marines should not be landed, the only alternative course that suggests

itself to me is that two of the Legation Cavasses should be placed on guard at Sid-el-Menebhi's house, and that I should inform the Sultan's Deputy thereof, and warn him that marines will be landed for Sid Menebhi's protection the moment any attempt is made to arrest him.

M. Saint René Taillandier, to whom I communicated this proposal, preferred it to the immediate landing of marines.

I would point out with all respect that any delay will produce a bad effect.

As the Moorish authorities have orders to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi should he attempt to leave the country, a disagreeable incident might possibly arise should he attempt to embark on His Majesty's ship "Minerva."

No. 389.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 27, 1904.

SID MENEBHI. My telegram No. 50 of the 24th instant.

If you should, at any time, have reason to fear for Menebhi's personal safety, you might send him on board His Majesty's ship "Minerva" if he consents to that step.

No. 390.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 27, 1904.

I HAVE received a letter from Sid-ben-Sliman in answer to the note I addressed him on the 14th August, of which I had the honour to inclose a translation in my despatch No. 145. The Minister for Foreign Affairs states that the Sultan is perplexed that we claim the right to protect Sid-el-Menebhi, and that I state in my letter of the 14th August that this protection was accorded at the Sultan's express wish, whereas in my previous letter of the 5th August I had said that it was on account of his public services that protection had been accorded him. As to the former reason the Sultan states that he never expressed such a wish; and that, on your Lordship's Memorandum being handed to him, he objected to the protection, but that Kaïd Sir H. Maclean informed him that it would only become operative if His Majesty so desired it. As to the second ground, the Sultan says that Sid-el-Menebhi was merely his instrument: His Majesty was acting out of his great friendship towards His Majesty's Government, the credit, therefore, was due, not to Sid-el-Menebhi, but to the Sultan. Sid-el-Menebhi's conduct in any case has rendered him unworthy of protection. The Sultan concludes by appealing to His Majesty's Government's sense of justice not to create a precedent for protecting officials, and begging that his rights be respected.

No. 391.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 28.)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 27, 1904.

MENEBHI. When he told me of the offer referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 51 of to-day's date, Sid-el-Menebhi said that he did not trust the French, and would not accept their protection. I will, however, make the inquiries indicated.

The proposal referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 48 was, so Sid-ben-Sliman told Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, very favourably received by the Sultan. His Majesty would await His Majesty's Government's reply to the various letters after your Lordship had received their texts, but His Majesty was disposed to accept the proposal.

No. 392.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *San Sebastian, August* 23, 1904.

THE Madrid "Gazette," of to-day's date, publishes the text of a Royal Decree, issued by the Minister of War, laying down the bases of a system for the colonization of Melilla.

The "campo," or plain, lying outside the fortress is to be divided into allotments of various sizes, to be determined by the General in command, having regard to the quality of the soil and to the particular form of cultivation to be employed in each case. The number of acres in each allotment is not to exceed the quantity necessary to sustain a family.

These lands are to remain the permanent property of the State, and the colonist is only to enjoy the usufruct of them, for which he will pay no rent.

For a person to obtain the status of a colonist it is indispensable that he should be a Spanish subject, and possess the funds necessary for the working, plantation, and cultivation of his parcel of land.

The status of colonist will also be granted to Moors who possess the necessary means, and who shall have cultivated the allotments assigned to them during a period of ten years, provided that they take an oath of fidelity to Spain and renounce their Moorish nationality. The lands allotted to Moors are to be in the immediate neighbourhood of the fortress.

The colonist shall have no claim to an indemnity for any losses he may incur in case of war.

His tenure will also be subject to certain conditions and obligations—*e.g.*, that of providing, at the request of the military authorities, all the means of transport, beasts of burden, &c., in his possession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 393.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 29, 1904.

MENEBHI. My telegram No. 122 of the 27th instant.

I have had an interview with Sid-el-Menebhi, and I find that he is strongly opposed to the idea of being under French protection.

Unless, therefore, your Lordship desires it, I would propose not to mention the matter to M. Saint René Taillandier.

No. 394.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 29, 1904.

I AM forwarding Sid-ben-Sliman's letter to your Lordship by bag, which leaves Gibraltar on the 31st instant. In this letter an appeal is made to your Lordship not to shelter Sid-el-Menebhi from the consequences of his misconduct; it charges him with having mismanaged the Taza campaign, with having enriched himself at Government expense, and with having incited the tribes to rebellion.

No. 395.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1904.

YOUR telegram No. 120 of the 27th instant.

I approve your suggestion to station two Legation Cavasses at Menebhi's house. If this step is taken, you should inform Sid Torres, but, in view of objections raised by French, no mention should be made of eventual landing of marines.

In view of your telegram No. 122 of the 27th instant, you should press proposal for Menebhi's retirement to Egypt.

No. 396.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, August* 30, 1904.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

It might hasten a solution of the Menebhi case if instructions were given to the French Minister to urge the Sultan to accept the proposal mentioned in the last paragraph of the above telegram.

M. Saint René Taillandier informs me that no instructions have yet reached him on the subject.

No. 397.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1904.

SID MENEBHI. My telegram No. 53 of the 29th instant.

I am opposed to proposal for landing marines, for it is obviously not advisable for us to intervene forcibly in Moorish affairs.

The best solution would be afforded by Menebhi's removal to Egypt, and, in view of their strong objection to our landing a force, the French ought to give all the assistance they can towards bringing this about.

No. 398.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 30, 1904.

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant in regard to a proposal to land a guard of marines from His Majesty's ship "Minerva" for the protection of Sid Menebhi's house in Tangier.

In reply, I am to refer you to the telegraphic correspondence with His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, copies of which have been sent to your Department, and from which it will be seen that no decision has yet been come to on this point. I am to add that Lord Lansdowne, as at present advised, is not in favour of the adoption of any action such as that suggested.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

No. 399.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 463.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 462 of the 25th instant, I have to inform you that the French Minister called at this Office yesterday and said that he had been instructed by M. Delcassé to again express the hope that marines might not be disembarked to protect Menebhi and prevent his arrest, more especially as the French Minister at Tangier had been able to assure His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires that no orders had been received to arrest Menebhi, and that the latter was therefore in no danger for the moment.

M. Geoffray was told that Mr. White had also telegraphed to this effect.

Mr. Campbell, to-day, informed M. Geoffray, by my directions, that I have sanctioned the stationing of two Legation Cavasses at Menebhi's house, as suggested by Mr. White, but that, in view of the objections of the French Government, Mr. White has been instructed to say nothing about the landing of a force; and he expressed the hope that in these circumstances M. Saint-René Taillandier might be instructed to assist Mr. White in extricating Menebhi from his difficulties, and added that if the British and French Representatives made a simultaneous demand of the Sultan's Minister for reasonable treatment for Menebhi it would probably not be refused.

Mr. Campbell took the opportunity of referring to the idea of sending Menebhi to Egypt, as to which the Sultan seemed well disposed, and asked that the French Minister might be instructed to press this solution of the question upon the Moorish Government in concert with Mr. White.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 400.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 96.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 143, Confidential, of the 12th instant, reporting the interviews which His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez has recently had with the Sultan of Morocco and Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, for the purpose of discussing the case of Sid Menebhi.

I approve the language held by Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod on these occasions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 401.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Foreign Office, September* 1, 1904.

YOUR telegram No. 123 of the 29th ultimo: Sid Menebhi.

I agree.

No. 402.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 2.)

(No. 126.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 2, 1904.

MENEBHI: My telegram No. 125 of the 30th ultimo.

I am informed by M. Saint-René Taillandier that instructions have now reached him to co-operate with me in order to arrive at a solution of Sid el Menebhi's case.

Lest, however, it should create a precedent which would be inconvenient to France, he is anxious to take no steps which would imply that he admitted the validity of the protection. His action, therefore, though in concert with mine, would be separate and not collective.

The former seems to me more likely to prove effective and is therefore preferable.

No. 403.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 155.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 28, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 154 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that I called upon the French Minister on the morning of the 24th instant and informed him that, in view of the message I had received from the Sultan threatening, under certain circumstances, to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, I proposed to address a letter to Sid Torres informing him that, unless he could give me formal written assurances that no attempt would be made to effect the arrest, I should be under the necessity of placing a guard of marines at Sid-el-Menebhi's house for his protection.

M. Saint-René Taillandier was evidently much put out at the Sultan having taken up so untenable a position, and admitted that it was necessary to take steps to prevent the threat being carried out, as the situation would be greatly complicated thereby.

He readily agreed to my suggestion that he should at once take steps to make the Sultan understand that no attempt must be made to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi pending a settlement of the question with His Majesty's Government.

With reference to the letter I proposed to address Sid Torres, he suggested that it would be preferable not to say definitely that marines would be landed in the event of satisfactory assurances not being received, but to confine myself to stating merely that steps would be taken for Sid-el-Menebhi's protection.

Upon my pointing out, however, that vague language has little or no effect upon the Moorish authorities, and that there would be less probability of having to land marines if I stated clearly that I would do so, if satisfactory assurances should not be received, M. Saint-René Taillandier did not maintain his objection, and agreed to my addressing the letter to Sid Torres as proposed, and said he would himself send an unofficial verbal message to Sid Torres urging him to give the assurance required.

Shortly afterwards I received a note from the French Minister in which he stated that upon reflection he felt he must maintain his objection to my mentioning in my letter the landing of marines, and that he was coming to see me later to talk over the matter again.

At this second interview the French Minister informed me that he feared that the natives might become excited if marines were landed, and disturbances might consequently arise. I reminded him that a short time since marines had been landed from the American ships of war and had been placed on guard at various houses without creating the slightest excitement.

M. Saint-René Taillandier admitted this, but considered that the cases were not similar, and he hoped that I would not expressly mention in my letter the landing of marines.

I said I would acquaint your Lordship with his views, but that I thought that, if I confined myself to vague language in the letter, I should at any rate mention that His Majesty's ship "Minerva" will be detained here in connection with this case. I also inquired whether he could suggest any other course that could be adopted which he would prefer, as I was anxious to meet his wishes as far as possible.

M. Saint-René Taillandier replied that he could make no suggestion, and that I must not ask him to express approval or disapproval, it being for us to decide what steps we should take.

On the 25th instant, having obtained your Lordship's authority, I addressed to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres a letter, translation of which is inclosed herewith, requesting assurances that no attempt would be made to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, and informing him that otherwise steps would be taken for his protection, His Majesty's ship "Minerva" being detained here for the present. I beg leave to transmit also translation of a letter I addressed to Sid-ben-Sliman the same day, inclosing copy of my letter to Sid Torres, and requesting his Excellency to furnish me with assurances similar to those I had asked of Sid Torres.

In his reply, translation of which is inclosed herewith, Sid Torres merely informs me that he has no knowledge of the matter. I accordingly addressed his Excellency a further letter, pointing out that his letter contains no assurances whatever, and that unless I receive such assurances I should have to take the necessary steps to protect Sid-el-Menebhi. I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of this letter.

Sid Torres sent to me to say that he would not be able to reply to my letter until he had consulted the other members of the "Miglis," or Council, of which his Excellency was the head. As that body does not sit on Fridays, it was evident that there would be some delay before I could receive the assurances required. This caused me some uneasiness, as Sid-el-Menebhi sent that evening to inform me that he had heard positively from a reliable source that orders had been received by the Basha for his arrest as soon as possible. This confirmed a report to the same effect which had been made to me confidentially on the previous day, and which I had not communicated to Sid-el-Menebhi. I accordingly called upon the French Minister and expressed to him my fears, telling him that I felt it my duty to report to your Lordship, and inquire whether steps should not be taken at once to protect Sid-el-Menebhi.

The French Minister—who, I happen to have heard, had just received a visit from the Basha—said he was glad to be in a position to inform me that no orders had yet been received for the arrest of Sid-el-Menebhi, and to assure me that, even should such orders be received, no action would be taken on them pending a reference to the Sultan. He added that, though he could only give me that assurance privately, he would put it in writing, and I might rest satisfied that he was not doing so lightly or without sufficient grounds, though he was not at liberty to tell me what those grounds were.

I thanked M. Saint-René Taillandier for the assurance he had given me, which relieved me of all anxiety for the moment, and pending a receipt of a reply to my letter to Sid Torres. Herewith I beg to transmit a copy of the private letter I subsequently received from the French Minister, together with a copy of my reply thereto.

Feeling that any verbal assurance the French Minister might have received from the Basha or other Moorish official did not really afford an absolute guarantee, and that it was nevertheless necessary that I should receive from Sid Torres the assurances I had been instructed to require, I called the following morning on Sid Torres, and subsequently on Sid Ghannam, who is the next most important member of the "Miglis," and, explaining that I merely required an assurance that no attempt would be made to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi pending a reference on the subject to the Sultan, I impressed upon them the importance of sending a satisfactory reply to my letter. Sid Torres reminded me that he had already received a severe reprimand for having shown friendship to Sid-el-Menebhi, and said he could not assume the responsibility of suspending the execution of any order the Sultan might have issued. Sid Ghannam, on the other hand, said he would consult with Sid Torres to see what could be done. He subsequently sent me a private message to the effect that a letter had been drafted that would fully satisfy me, and that I should receive it early the following morning.

That evening, however, a courier arrived from Fez with despatches to Sid Torres, which apparently caused the "Miglis" to go back upon its decision. Not receiving the promised reply next day, I sent a request that it might be delivered to me, and I then received a letter—copy inclosed herewith—forwarding a long letter addressed to your Lordship by Sid-ben-Sliman, and stating that there was no longer any necessity to give me any assurances. I shall have the honour to forward this letter to your Lordship, together with its translation, in a separate despatch.

I thereupon sent a verbal message to Sid Torres, pointing out that Sid-ben-Sliman's letter contains no assurances whatever, and requesting that I might at once be definitively informed whether the assurance required would be given or not.

A reply was brought to me that if I would return the last letter I should receive a categorical reply. I did so, and then received the letter translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, informing me that it is only the Sultan who could give the assurance I desired.

I called upon the French Minister and acquainted him with the refusal of Sid Torres to give any assurances, saying that it seemed to me to be now imperative to adopt some measures to protect Sid-el-Menebhi, for to take no action after what had passed would be to render oneself ridiculous in the eyes of the Moorish authorities and to ruin any prestige one might have. M. Saint-René Taillandier could not but admit the truth of this, anxious as he was that nothing should be done.

He said he felt convinced that no attempt would be made to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, and as he had written strongly on the subject to the Court on the 20th instant I should probably shortly receive full assurances from the Sultan.

I observed that I placed little reliance on verbal assurances given by Moorish officials, and that I did not know the nature of the assurances he had received, but that it seemed strange to me that the Moorish authorities should be unwilling to give me the same assurances. The message containing the threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi had been delivered on the 15th instant; on the 18th Sid-ben-Sliman had told Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod he would speak to the Sultan on the subject and ask for instructions; I had received letters from Mr. MacLeod up to the evening of the 23rd instant, and up to that time Sid-ben-Sliman had said nothing as to any instructions of the Sultan to cancel the message, which therefore still stands as originally delivered.

M. Saint-René Taillandier informed me that he had acquainted his Government, by telegraph, with the details of this matter and the substance of our various conversations, and he had no doubt that M. Cambon—or, in his absence, M. Geoffray—would speak to your Lordship on the subject, and he hoped no action would be taken until the matter had been discussed.

He felt that the position they had acquired in this country under the Anglo-French Agreement would be affected by any display of force on our part, and that an unfortunate precedent would be created thereby.

I assured the French Minister that I was extremely unwilling to suggest any step that would be distasteful to him, but, at the same time, he himself had admitted that we could not well do nothing under the circumstances, and I would be glad if he could himself suggest any course to adopt. He, however, was unable to think of any. I subsequently suggested that it might, perhaps, be possible merely to place two of the cavasses attached to this Legation as a guard at Sid-el-Menebhi's house, informing Sid Torres that I had done so, and warning him that, should any attempt be made to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, marines would immediately be landed from His Majesty's ship "Minerva" to protect him.

The French Minister, though from his own point of view preferring that nothing should be done at all, said that this suggestion seemed to him preferable to landing marines at once.

I venture to submit that to place cavasses at Sid-el-Menebhi's house is the least we can do under the circumstances, and if the assurances which have been given to the French Minister are of any value, there will be no chance of having to land marines.

I beg to express my regret at the great length of this despatch; but I am anxious that your Lordship should be in possession of all the details should the French Ambassador speak on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 403.

Mr. White to Sid Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 12 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 25, 1904).

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez has reported to me that Sid-ben-Sliman had requested him to deliver to me a message which the Sultan desired to be conveyed to me, to the effect that it was proposed, under certain circumstances, to issue orders for the arrest of Sid-el-Menebhi.

In view of the serious nature of this communication—Sid-el-Menebhi being, as I had the honour to inform your Excellency, under British protection—I communicated this message to His Majesty's Government, and as it cannot be permitted that a person whom His Majesty's Government have stated is under their protection should be arrested by the Moorish authorities in contravention to the Treaties, I am instructed by my Government to request your Excellency to give me a formal written assurance that no attempt will be made, either by the Basha or by any other Moorish authority, to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi; and I have further to inform your Excellency that His Majesty's ship "Minerva" will remain in this bay for the present, and should I not receive from your Excellency the assurances required, steps will be taken for the protection of Sid-el-Menebhi.

I am addressing a letter on the subject to Sid-ben-Sliman, but in the meantime I urgently request your Excellency to be good enough to give me the required assurance without delay.

May you rest.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 403.

Mr. White to Ben Sliman.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 12 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 25, 1904).

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez has communicated to me the message of His Shereefian Majesty the Sultan, delivered by you, to the effect that "information had reached His Majesty that Sid-el-Menebhi has been, and is still, in correspondence with Reissouli and with the tribes in the south, inciting both the former and the latter to rebel against the Sultan, and that His Majesty desired, therefore, to warn me of this, and protested against it, and gave notice that on the first sign of insubordination on the part of Reissouli or the southern tribes Sid Menebhi will be arrested and his properties seized." The extreme gravity of this message, involving as it does the threat to arrest a person who, the British Government have informed His Shereefian Majesty, is under their protection, rendered it necessary for me to report the message to His Majesty's Government, and to request instructions.

I beg to transmit to your Excellency copy of a letter which I have, by order of my Government, addressed to Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, who, I trust, will give me the assurances required, so that I shall not have to adopt other measures for securing Sid-el-Menebhi against the possibility of arrest.

Sid Torres, however, can only give such assurances pending the receipt of instructions from the Sultan. I have therefore to request your Excellency to bring the matter to the knowledge of His Majesty, and I shall be glad to receive from your Excellency an assurance similar to that His Majesty's Government have instructed me to require from Sid Torres.

May you rest.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 403.

Sid Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 12 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 25, 1904).

YOUR letter of to-day's date reached me, containing the report sent you by your Vice-Consul at Fez regarding Sid-el-Menebhi. I noted it, and have to inform your Excellency that I have no knowledge thereof.

May you rest.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 403.

Mr. White to Sid Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 12 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 25, 1904).

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of this date, in reply to that I addressed to you this morning regarding Sid-el-Menebhi, in which your Excellency merely informs me that you have no knowledge thereof.

I beg to point out to your Excellency that in my above-mentioned letter I requested your Excellency to give me a formal written assurance that no attempt will be made, either by the Basha or by any other Moorish authority, to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi. Your Excellency's letter contains no such assurance. I shall therefore have to take the necessary steps for protecting Sid-el-Menebhi from the possibility of arrest, unless I receive the assurances required by my Government at once.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 403.

M. Saint-René Taillandier to Mr. White.

(Particulière.)

Légation de France au Maroc, Tanger, le 25 Août, 1904.

Cher M. White,

AINSI que j'ai eu le plaisir de vous le dire tout à l'heure, je suis en mesure de vous assurer qu'il n'est pas arrivé d'ordre visant l'arrestation de Sid-el-Mehedi-el-Menebhi, et que si un tel ordre arrivait, l'exécution en serait différée jusqu'à ce qu'on eût référé à Fez.

Je me félicite de pouvoir vous confirmer à cet égard une assurance qui dissipe, m'avez-vous dit, les appréhensions dont vous m'avez fait part.

Votre tout dévoué,

(Signé) G. SAINT-RENÉ TAILLANDIER.

Inclosure 6 in No. 403.

Mr. White to M. Saint-René Taillandier.

(Particulière.)

Tanger, le 25 Août, 1904.

Mon cher Ministre,

JE viens de recevoir votre lettre, dans laquelle vous vouliez bien me renouveler les assurances que vous m'aviez déjà donnés verbalement que, pour le moment au moins, il n'y a pas lieu de craindre une tentative d'arrêter Sid-el-Menebhi.

Cette assurance dissipe les craintes que j'avais que les autorités locales pourraient prendre quelques mesures contre Sid-el-Menebhi avant que je reçoive la réponse de Sid Torres à ma dernière lettre.

J'espère bien que, demain, après que Sid Torres aura consulté le "Miglis," je recevrai une réponse avec les assurances catégoriques que j'ai demandées par ordre de mon Gouvernement.

En vous renouvelant tous mes remercîments de votre bonne et efficace coopération, je vous prie d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 7 in No. 403.

Sid Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 14 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 27, 1904).

I RECEIVED your letter of the 12th instant (25th August), in answer to my reply regarding Sid-el-Menebhi, and I note what you state. Herewith you will receive letters from the Vizier Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman on this subject, containing that which will render unnecessary the explanation you request.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

Inclosure 8 in No. 403.

Sid Torres to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 14 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 27, 1904).

I RECEIVED your letter dated the 12th instant (25th August), in answer to my reply concerning El Menebhi, regarding the request of giving an assurance (of security) to him. I note what you state, and am aware of it. The giving of security to the person mentioned appertains to His Shereefian Majesty, and is not within my province.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

No. 404.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No. 156.)

Tangier, August 28, 1904.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of the reply I have received from Sid Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman to the letter I addressed him by your Lordship's instructions on the 14th instant, translation of which accompanied my despatch No. 145 of that date.

In this letter Sid-ben-Sliman states that the Moorish Government are perplexed at this protection having been accorded, and at the grounds on which it was granted. He draws attention to the fact that it was first stated that the protection had been given to him in consideration of his public services, whereas in my subsequent letter the reason given was the express wish of the Sultan. He proceeds to argue that any services he may have rendered were by order of the Sultan, to whom alone credit is due. He denies that the Sultan ever asked for, or sanctioned, the protection, and states that His Majesty objected immediately he was informed thereof, and was assured that the protection would not become operative unless His Majesty desired it. Sid-ben-Sliman, in conclusion, appeals to His Majesty's Government not to insist on the claim to protect Sid-el-Menebhi, who is unworthy thereof.

Yesterday I received another letter, though of earlier date, from Sid-ben-Sliman, inclosing a long letter to your Lordship's address, which his Excellency requests me to forward. I have the honour to transmit herewith the original letter, together with a translation of a copy thereof sent to me for that purpose. This letter is in substance practically a repetition of his Excellency's first letter to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 404.

Sid-ben-Sliman to Mr. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) 7 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 20, 1904).

I RECEIVED your letter of the 1st instant (14th August) in reply to my preceding letter of the 25th Jumad I, 1322, relative to the embargo of the properties of Menebhi; you state that you telegraphed the contents to His Britannic Majesty's Government, and that they replied, after considering it, that they cannot withdraw this protection once given, and that it was founded on the belief of the respected Government that it was done at the express wish of His Shereefian Majesty, &c. I brought your letter to the knowledge of His Majesty, who considered it, and instructed me to reply to you confirming my previous letter, stating the perplexity of the minds of the Shereefian Government officials at this protection, and at the basis on which it can be founded, and their perplexity is increased by this reply, from which it would appear that the friendly British Government is of opinion that the formation of the idea of this protection has an existing foundation in fact, but the contrary is the fact; and it is most probable that the exalted Government's idea of this origin can only be founded upon one of the many seductions of the said Menebhi, and that he thereby managed to represent the facts to the officials of the British Government, purposely placing things in a wrong light, as is well known of his deceits and frivolities, the method and objects of which are only known to him who has had dealings with them, then the unforeseen discloses to him the evils of their results and their sinister consequences. Among the matters which increased the perplexity and confusion of the minds of the officials of the Shereefian Government is the confusion of the basis on which the claim of this protection is founded, between your first letter, dated the 5th August, and your letter of the 14th August. In the first you state that it is based on consideration for his public services, and in the second you state it was based, at the time it was given, on the express wish of His Shereefian Majesty, and His Shereefian Majesty has replied to both contentions. If it is the desire to follow the first form, which is consideration for his public services, His Shereefian Majesty believes that no credit is due to any of his subjects or officials except himself, during his reign, for benevolent endeavours and good relations which have passed between His Shereefian Majesty and His Majesty the exalted respected King of Great

Britain, which have resulted in the strengthening of the ancient bonds and the increasing of their solidity by the bonds of a new friendship and a special sincerity which is not hidden from the British public in general, not to mention the most enlightened, and the officials of the British Government. And if any one of His Shereefian Majesty's officials has conducted any of the means for solidifying the bonds of this special union, he is acting under instructions, and is an instrument employed in accordance with the cordial impulses of His Shereefian Majesty, who still maintains them; and you must not imagine that any one of his subjects or anybody else is characterized by the tithe of His Majesty's friendship. What consideration can there be for any other than His Shereefian Majesty amongst the people of the country on the part of the British Government? No! But consideration for his friendship and for the rights of his Empire Government and subjects is more worthy of regard. And if the second form is desired, which is in accordance with the desire of His Shereefian Majesty, that is to say, the short phrase which Kaïd MacLean conveyed to His Shereefian Majesty, containing the information Kaïd MacLean had conveyed verbally, incorrectly, and erroneously, His Shereefian Majesty replied at the time to him verbally also on this point, disapproving his conveying (a message) he had not been instructed to convey, and Kaïd MacLean answered at the same time, adducing as an excuse that the acceptance of the phrase was still dependent on the expression of His Shereefian Majesty's desire on the subject. Then, His Shereefian Majesty informed him of the impossibility of accepting that which the words of this phrase contained, although it would show the friendly sentiments of the Government, and His Shereefian Majesty contented himself with a verbal, and not a written, reply to this phrase, as the phrase contained no specific address to the Makhzen. From this, if the respected British Government will again consider this matter, the result will be that it will be clear to it that the claim of protection in this instance is based on no foundation. And even on the supposition the absence of a foundation has it ever happened in the past that any one such as this individual, or, as I have already explained to you, can he be allowed to claim it, and can it be permitted to any one who has striven in vices which have afflicted the country, its Government, and subjects that he should be confirmed in this claim, and it not be wrested from him, supposing the validity of its origin—an impossible supposition—because of the opening of the doors of abuse it comprises as regards all the Makhzen officials and functionaries, which it would not be possible to close, and the disorder which would accrue therefrom in the Government of the Empire and in the execution of orders. And the English Government is the first to give attention to its well-known custom of recognizing the rights and consideration for its friends where their rights are concerned, which (rights) have been reduced to a state which will soften hard hearts and draw compassion from the fixed mountains. I request you, by instruction of His Shereefian Majesty, to bring this reply textually to the knowledge of the intelligent respected Minister for Foreign Affairs of the British Government, and it is expected of him and his exalted Government that they will give attention to these rights which it is not possible for its justice to do otherwise than consider.

May you, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM-BEN-SLIMAN

Inclosure 2 in No. 404.

Sid-ben-Sliman to the Marquess of Lansdowne.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

IN conformity with the knowledge His Majesty the King of the glorious British Empire and his friendly Ministers have of the sincere friendship and the kindly confidence His Shereefian Majesty has in His Majesty and his full protection of the bonds of amity which no accident or cause can alter—His Shereefian Majesty has instructed me to write to your Lordship concerning El Mehedi-el-Menebhi, of whom you will doubtless have heard that which has been disclosed concerning him, and of the correspondence which has passed on the subject between the Shereefian Government and your Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier. The object of this letter is to further explain what has occurred, so that you may be acquainted therewith. It is as follows:—

It is known to all that this individual and his tribe belong to the "Jioosh" (tribes who owe military service) who are confined to the service of the Makhzen since the time of His Majesty's ancestors, and are so still, and he was one of the poor Makhaznis

in the service of Sid Hamed-ben-Musa who employed him, especially in the matter of the contributions of the Kabilas for the Treasury, because of his belief in his good advice as to the course he was following; and when Sid Hamed-ben-Musa died His Shereefian Majesty had the same opinion of him, and he continued to collect the contributions of his subjects through him, and he employed them and other Makhzen treasures over and above the money, &c., which was guarded in the Treasury at the house of the said Sid Hamed-ben-Musa, which he kept for himself and took possession of ostensibly to expend it in the interests of the Makhzen until the time he went on the Embassy to London, when his unfaithfulness in many money matters which were in his hands, and in the internal politics, showed up against him; and it became necessary to speedily remove him from the command of the army, which office gave him full independence to do as he pleased, and power to take possession of the moneys and treasures of the Makhzen—in order to repair the rights of the Government and the people, which he had corrupted and he continued confirmed in his office and duties outside the command of the army. And when he returned from his Embassy he besought His Majesty, acknowledging his faults and his repentance thereof, and that all he possessed belonged to the Makhzen, and requested that he be allowed to remain in possession of it, and that he should not be punished for what he had done. His Majesty was merciful to him, and was touched with compassion for him, especially from regard to the Government to which he had gone as an Ambassador, and the reception they had given him, and from belief in the sincerity of his repentance after he had been punished. His Majesty restored him to the command on the condition that if any of the foregoing should be proven against him in the future he would be punished for all he had committed in the past or (might commit) in the future. When he was confirmed in his command, he began making a show of good advice also in a new manner, and concealing treachery, deception, and stratagems, by which he could bring about the destruction of the supports of the Empire, and its extinction, so that he would not separate himself from it (the command) until he had left nothing in it (the country) capable of being in any way repaired. Amongst these (treacheries, &c.) he was the stirer up of disorder in the Berber Kabylas, to which His Shereefian Majesty went out with the army, and he was the cause of no result being obtained by it, notwithstanding the loss of money and men, and also he was the cause of the Mahalla, which was sent to the Taza district, being in an inextricable position and of the dissipation of its money and men, so that the matter almost reached a much more serious state, of which if only a tithe were proved against any person or any single one of the nations, he would thereby merit certainly perpetual punishment for the term of his natural life.

And as all this was established against him after his departure for the East, the Makhzen was awaiting his return to take from him the money and treasures of the Makhzen, and the moneys of the people he had withheld, and pass sentence on him according to his deserts. He showed signs that he was remaining at Tangier. Therefore His Shereefian Majesty gave orders for the embargo of what remained visible in the territories of the Empire and in its towns, to safeguard them from being disposed of and dissipated, because of the certain knowledge every one had that all possessions he claims as his own belong to the Makhzen only and entirely, and that he has only acquired them from the Government treasures and the contributions of the people, which he has wasted, and that all the Makhzen has done in protecting what is visible will not cover a hundredth part of that for which he is pursued, and he has the major part still concealed.

When the letter of your Chargé d'Affaires reached me asking the reason for the embargo of the aforesaid, and informing of this individual's protection, the minds of the Shereefian Government became perplexed thereat, as their minds could not imagine the reason for it, nor the existence of a foundation on which it could be based. And I replied to him giving him the facts, and requested him, by His Majesty's instructions, to transmit that reply itself to your Lordship.

In short, the evil conduct this individual has pursued is the cause which has brought the Shereefian Government to the condition which is not unknown to any one.

How can any Government maintain silence about one who it was thought was giving good advice, and against whom a portion of these treacheries are proved? And if this is exposed to you you will, without doubt, have the certitude of the condition of this individual, and the impulse of friendship towards His Shereefian Majesty will impel you to give attention towards his rights and those of his Government and subjects, and your Government will avoid it being said of them that they sheltered one who has followed these evil paths. His most important object in attaching himself to the exalted English Government is to escape payment of dues, the facts of which he knows must be

exposed, and that he cannot escape pursuit for them whenever the Makhzen should have knowledge of them; and he did not know that the respected British Government would not agree to this, nor in any way confirm the protection of one who has thus sheltered himself.

His Shereefian Majesty awaits your reply, following the course of your well-known equity to the strong and weak, more so to friends who have a good belief in you.

May you continue in happiness and tranquillity.

Finished 2nd Jumad 2, 1322 (15th August, 1904).

No. 405.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 28, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that I requested His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez to place privately before Sid-ben-Sliman the suggestion that an arrangement be come to for cutting short the whole question in connection with Sid-el-Menebhi by his realizing all his properties and retiring with his family to Egypt.

When Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod mentioned the matter to Sid-ben-Sliman he appeared to think that the suggestion afforded a satisfactory solution, and said he would speak to the Sultan on the subject.

In a letter dated the 23rd instant Mr. Macleod states that he had again seen Sid-ben-Sliman, who had informed him that the Sultan had received the proposed settlement very favourably, and that it would be effected without fail, but that, before beginning negotiations, His Majesty wished to receive the full replies of His Majesty's Government to the various letters Sid-ben-Sliman had written on this subject after that your Lordship had had their full texts before you and not merely the telegraphic summaries. Sid-ben-Sliman had further stated that the Moorish Government was sincerely resolved to arrive at an amicable settlement of the matter. I have every hope that, upon receipt of your Lordship's reply to the letter of Sid-ben-Sliman, which I had the honour to forward in a separate despatch, I may be able to bring about a solution of this question on the lines indicated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 406.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No. 158.)

My Lord, *Tangier, August* 28, 1904.

THE French Minister has informed me that he has received news from Fez, which he believes to be reliable, that the Sultan is about to relieve Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres of his post, and to appoint as his successor Sid Abdslam Tazi, who was recently summoned to Fez, as reported in my despatch No. 142 of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 407.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No. 159. Confidential.)

My Lord. *Tangier, August* 30, 1904.

THE German Minister has informed me that he has instructed the German Vice-Consul at Fez to see the Sultan and urge His Majesty to receive with the greatest caution the various charges which have been made against Sid-el-Menebhi, which the German Minister believes to be entirely without foundation.

As one of the principal charges against Sid-el-Menebhi is that he has misappropriated Government property—it being even stated that when he entered the Sultan's service he was simply a poor soldier—I took an opportunity of making confidential

inquiries on that point of Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, who, having been formerly Governor of Dar-el-Baida, is acquainted with Sid-el-Menebhi's family.

Sid Torres, whilst begging that his name should not be mentioned, assured me that the Menebhi family has always been an important one, and have been Governors of the province for generations. Sid-el-Menebhi's father and grandfather having both been Governors, and possessed of considerable property.

This entirely confirms what Sid-el-Mehedi-el-Menebhi has himself told me as to the source of his wealth. He has explained to me that he has himself greatly increased his properties by investing the moneys derived from his lands in the purchase of additional estates, reserving only the proceeds of the sales of grain for meeting working expenses and for his own private use. He assures me that when holding office he spent large sums from his private fortune for Government service, and general report bears out this statement.

It is scarcely necessary to refute the charges in Sid-ben-Sliman's letter that Sid-el-Menebhi incited the Berbers to rebellion and mismanaged the Taza campaign. It is astonishing that so manifestly false a charge should have been made, for it is notorious that had it not been for Sid-el-Menebhi the Sultan's cause would probably have then been lost, as he was the only leader who showed any courage or competence. Had the Sultan only followed his advice after the taking of Taza, the Pretender's power would have been completely broken.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 408.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 5.)

(No. 127.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 5, 1904.

MENEBHI. Sid-ben-Sliman has sent me a long letter, in reply to mine of the 25th August, on the subject of the Government's threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi. The Minister for Foreign Affairs states that the Government have no desire to arrest him until after the discussion with us is completed, but that if the charges of stirring up rebellion, which have been brought against him, are clearly proved, they would be obliged to arrest him in the interests of the country. Sid-ben-Sliman denies the language he used to Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod, and alleges that what he said was to the above effect.

Minister for Foreign Affairs requests that we should not allow Sid-el-Menebhi to leave the country, and renews the charges against him; he also states that the object the Government had in warning us was to induce us to restrain Sid-el-Menebhi from this conduct.

No. 409.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 6.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)

My Lord, *San Sebastian, September* 1, 1904.

I RECEIVED by the messenger, now here, your despatch No. 116 of the 16th ultimo, containing the text of the change proposed by the Spanish Government as regards the neutral zone.

M. Jules Cambon is unfortunately away, so I have no opportunity of ascertaining whether there would be French objection to the terms proposed. Unless he returns to-morrow, I will leave a copy of the clause with the Secretary of the Frency Embassy to be shown to M. Cambon on his return.

At present, M. San Pedro is away for a fortnight at some baths, being replaced for current affairs by the Minister of Agriculture. The Franco-Spanish negotiations can scarcely make progress till he and M. Delcassé return.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 410.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 99.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 6, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 155 of the 28th ultimo, respecting the case of Sid Menebhi.

I approve the action you have taken in the matter as reported in that despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 411.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 8.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 8, 1904.

MY despatch No. 112.

I am informed by the French Minister that he leaves Tangier for Paris on the 12th instant.

M. Saint-René Taillandier expects to go early in November on his Mission to Fez.

No. 412.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 160.)
My Lord, *Tangier, August* 31, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 155 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to report that I yesterday gave directions that two of the cavasses of this Legation should remain on guard at the house of Sid-el-Menebhi to prevent his being arrested by the Moorish authorities, and I addressed Sid Torres a letter, translation of which I beg leave to inclose herewith, acquainting him with the step I had taken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 412.

Mr. White to Sid Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier*, 17 *Jumad II*, 1322 (*August* 30, 1904).

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that, in view of your inability to give me the required assurances that no attempt will be made to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, I have, by direction of His Majesty's Government, placed two of the cavasses of this Legation at his house to prevent his being molested. I request your Excellency to warn the Basha and other local authorities concerned that the Legation cavasses are on guard at Sid-el-Menebhi's house.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 413.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 1, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 146 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Sid Abderahman ben Abdesadok left Tangier yesterday on board a French steamer for Melilla and Algeria, whence he will proceed to Oujdah to relieve Sid Rekina

of the command. A small body of infantry, not many more than 100 men, I am informed, left at the same time in a Moorish steamer for Ajeroud, whence they will march to Oujdah.

Sid Abderahman ben Abdesadok has also been appointed Governor of all the Riff tribes, and has instructions to endeavour to collect men from the loyal tribes and to win over to the Sultan's cause those who are disaffected.

The latest reports from the Oujdah district are more favourable to the Government, the Sultan's troops apparently having had some minor successes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 414.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 162.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 2, 1904.

THE French Minister called upon me this morning to inform me that he had now received instructions to lend me his assistance in endeavouring to bring the Menebhi affair to a satisfactory conclusion, and that he is prepared to take steps beyond the private and unofficial action he has hitherto been able to take. He proceeded, however, to explain that he was anxious to avoid doing anything that would imply a recognition of the validity of the protection accorded to Sid-el-Menebhi, for in the position acquired by France in this country under the Anglo-French Agreement, it was very undesirable to create a precedent for the granting of protection to Moorish officials, lest at some future time other Powers might seek to embarrass France by taking important officials under their protection. He preferred on that account that the representations we might make to the Court should not be collective but separate, though that would not prevent their being in concert.

I replied that, personally, I was of opinion that his representations to the Court would have greater effect and be more likely to lead to a settlement of the question if addressed separately and given in the form of advice offered to the Sultan in His Majesty's interests. With regard to the protection, it was impossible under the circumstances to withdraw it, but its discussion would become unnecessary if Sid-el-Menebhi leaves Morocco. It therefore seemed to me in every way desirable to hasten the Sultan's acceptance of the proposal I had made for settling the whole question, by Sid-el-Menebhi realizing all his property and retiring with his family to Egypt.

M. Saint-René Taillandier said that it had been suggested that he should make a representation to Sid Torres regarding the annoyances to which Sid-el-Menebhi has been subjected, but that he felt it would be absolutely useless to do so as Sid Torres, who is on the point of being superseded, is without any authority in the matter.

With this I entirely agreed, but I said that if he could make any representation at the Court that would put a stop to, or at any rate diminish, the persecution of Sid-el-Menebhi through his relations and employés I should be very grateful, as Sid-el-Menebhi has felt very keenly the ill-treatment they had suffered on his account, and he was very deeply affected at the last letters he had received, which, besides telling him of the flogging of his employés and the pillaging of his farms, gave him the news of the death of his only sister, to whom he was much attached. She resided with her other brother in Marrakesh, who was recently arrested and cast into prison, and the shock and fright on that occasion brought on a fit from which she never recovered, dying eight days later.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 415.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 12.)

(No. 164.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 2, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 149 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report that meetings have recently been called in this district to discuss the action which the tribes should take to oppose the French acquiring a footing in this

country. The meetings, however, have not been sufficiently well attended and have led to no results. It seems, therefore, for the present, improbable that any concerted action will be taken by the tribes, and the general situation may so far be regarded as improved, though the safety of Europeans cannot yet be regarded as secured.

The French officers have commenced instructing the troops here, the words of command being changed from English to Arabic. A certain amount of feeling was apparent among the troops at first, but this will doubtless wear off in time, and I trust that a fairly efficient force will gradually be created.

A body of cavalry numbering about 100 men are intrusted with patrol duties, and make the rounds day and night to see that the guards are at their posts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 416.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 4, 1904.

REPORTS that reach me from the south are to the effect that, although all preparations are being made for disturbances, no important risings have yet taken place, the fighting that has as yet occurred being merely of local interest.

The tribes continue to refuse to send levies of men to join the Sultan's troops at Fez, and declare that they will oppose any attempt to enforce the payment of taxes. The general opinion is that serious disturbances will occur before long, but it seems to me that if the tribes are not interfered with by the Government and no attempt is made to exact payment of taxes from them, and if the early rains arrive in good time so that ploughing can begin, it is possible that the danger may be tided over. All the natives are, however, well armed, and provided with horse and saddle, and ready to rise on the smallest provocation.

A disquieting symptom is the anti-Christian feeling that is now apparent in districts where formerly Europeans met with nothing but civility; it is therefore possible that, should there be any serious disturbances, the security of Europeans will be threatened.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 417.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 167.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 4, 1904.

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez informs me that when he delivered to Sid-Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman my letter of the 25th ultimo, translation of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 155 of the 28th ultimo, his Excellency, in speaking of the message the Sultan had sent to me, maintained the threat to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, and declared that the Moorish authorities have a right under the Treaties to arrest even a foreign subject who "was about to commit a crime such as would cause death or effusion of blood," and that they are therefore entitled to arrest Sid Menebhi if he continues to incite Reissouli or the southern tribes to rebellion.

It is difficult to understand upon what Article of Treaty Sid-ben-Sliman bases this contention. Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod argued the point with his Excellency, but without any effect. The only admission he could obtain was that, if Sid-el-Menebhi should be arrested, he would be handed over to the British authorities for safe custody. Sid-ben-Sliman added that, should he not continue his correspondence with Reissouli and the southern tribes, he need not fear arrest. As, however, the charge that he has hitherto done so is, I believe, without foundation, it is quite possible that he may be charged with a continuance of the same offence.

When Sid-ben-Sliman had this conversation with Mr. Macleod, the warning the French Minister told me he had sent his Excellency must have already reached him; I fear we must conclude it did not produce the desired effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 418.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 12.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 6, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 155 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a letter I have received from Sid-ben-Sliman in reply to mine of the 25th ultimo, translation of which was inclosed in my above-mentioned despatch.

Sid-ben-Sliman's letter is long and somewhat involved, and modifies to a certain extent the Sultan's message as delivered verbally to His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez. The message, it would appear from this letter, was that Sid-el-Menebhi was reported to be inciting Reissouli and the southern tribes to revolt; and should this be clearly proved against him, the Moorish Government would be under the necessity of arresting him, although it has no desire to do so until the discussion regarding him has been brought to a conclusion; and it is explained that the warning was conveyed to me in order that I might put a stop to Sid-el-Menebhi's intrigues, and thus obviate the necessity for his arrest. The letter contains no engagement not to effect the arrest, though it expresses the desire not to have to do so. It is, however, I think, little probable that any attempt will actually be made to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi, especially as the French Minister tells me that Sid-ben-Sliman assured the French Vice-Consul at Fez that they would not do so.

In delivering this letter to Mr. MacLeod to forward to me, Sid-ben-Sliman informed him generally of its contents, saying that the Moorish Government stood by their message of the 15th August, but stated that it had not been correctly transmitted. Mr. MacLeod, however, declares positively that the actual words used were as originally reported by him, and that Sid-ben-Sliman had at the time repeated them at his request, so that there could be no mistake.

I communicated the substance of Sid-ben-Sliman's letter to M. Saint-René Taillandier to-day, and he has asked me to furnish him with a copy of it. As we have asked for his co-operation in this affair, I presume your Lordship would have no objection to my acceding to this request, so I propose to hand him a copy as desired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 418.

Sid-ben-Sliman to Mr. White.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 19*th Jumad* 2, 1322 (*September* 1, 1904).

I HAVE received your letter replying to the information sent by your Vice-Consul at Fez concerning what was said to him on behalf of the Shereefian Government regarding the consecutive reports which come to the effect that Mehedi-el-Menebhi still continues negotiating with Reissouli and the tribes of Southern Morocco, inciting them to rebel against the Shereefian Government, and that on the first sign of rebellion shown by them Menebhi will be arrested; in which you state, by instructions of the glorious British Government, that the arrest of Menebhi cannot be permitted upon the first sign of rebellion on the part of those tribes, and that you request an official admission of his security from the Moorish Government, and no one of the Government officials lay hands on him, otherwise you will take the necessary measures, &c.

I informed His Shereefian Majesty of your said letter, who considered it and took note of all its contents, and instructed me to reply to you in the first place that it is understood from your said letter that, in the transmission of the meaning of the words spoken to your Vice-Consul, there occurred that which caused the words to be understood in a sense contrary to what was intended, so that the arrival of this, your reply, was founded thereon, not entirely in conformity with the friendly tendency of our conversation with your Vice-Consul and to which the reply, with an inappropriate threat, caused astonishment to the Government; as I did not say to your Vice-Consul that the Government would arrest Menebhi on the first sign of rebellion shown by the said tribes, but I said to him if the consecutive reports are fully confirmed the Government will then be compelled to extinguish the disorder by arresting him, without choice, from regard to the general welfare, which consists in pacifying the subjects and tranquilizing

those of the friendly nations resident in the country and safeguarding human lives, money, and property; and the most important intention in the words spoken to your Vice-Consul is the arousing of your endeavours to those measures which will alarm him and will restrain him from a continuance in the bad suggestions of his evil designs, which are natural to him, and which he will not relinquish except through a strong chastiser.

There is no desire on the part of the Government now to actually arrest him until the discussion pending about him is completed, and the result thereof becomes clear. Had it not been for the regard of the Shereefian Government to the honour of the said Government it would not have given it notice, nor would it have delayed arresting him. There is no doubt that this discussion will convince the just British Government of the character of this individual and his unwholesome endeavours, and will impel its dignity to abstain from consenting to the said Menebhi covering himself with its protection, as he seeks to do—a reason for the claim to which, *i.e.*, the protection, is not yet understood—as also it will compel it to acknowledge the rights of its friend the Moorish Government. Reports are still constantly coming from most parts of the Shereefian Empire that the said Menebhi and his men are still striving to incite the Kabylas to rebellion against the Government, and spread disorder in the country, and amongst this that which has occurred in the tribes in the Tangier and Tetuan districts, namely, the Proclamation by crier in their markets inciting to holy war, and possibly you have received news of this, as the report is not hidden from the residents of Tangier. That this is one of the signs of his evil instigation is strengthened by the authentic reports arriving from the Oujdah district, also of the said Menebhi inciting some men from Menebah, belonging to his Kabyla, who are functionaries in the Government force there, to endeavour to scatter the said force, may God not decree this. How can any Government remain silent about one individual who desires to demolish an important Empire, and what fault can be accounted against one who sends information to his friend of that which harms him in this manner with a warning of what may possibly result therefrom, especially at this time the condition of which is not hidden? I therefore request you, by His Shereefian Majesty's instructions, to restrain this agitator by those means which will cause him to keep within the proper bounds, and not permit him to leave Tangier at this time until the negotiations concerning him passing between the two Governments are concluded, as I also request you to transmit this letter verbatim to the glorious British Government, so that it may look upon the harms of this Shereefian Government with the eye of its known justice.

May you continue, &c.
(Signed) ABDELKERIM-BEN-SLIMAN.

No. 419.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 13.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, September* 13, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 452, I have the honour to report that the Spanish Ambassador has returned to Paris in order to confer with M. Delcassé, who is also here for a short time, on the Morocco question. I was asked by his Excellency to-day if I had received instructions to urge the French Government to agree to the clause which the Spanish Government were now putting forward.

The Marquis del Muni was told, in confidence, by Mr. de Bunsen, in reply, that he believed that private communication on the subject was taking place between your Lordship and the French Embassy in London.

No. 420.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Ci Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.

Your Excellency, *Foreign Office, September* 13, 1904.

I HAVE had the honour to receive the note which your Excellency addressed me by order of His Majesty the Sultan on 2 Jumad 2, 1322 (15th August, 1904), in regard to

the case of Si Mehedi-el-Menebhi, and while fully appreciating the courtesy which led your Excellency to write to me personally, I would suggest that it would be more convenient and more in accordance with usage if correspondence on the above subject were continued through the British Legation, which has hitherto been the channel of all official communications between His Majesty's Government and your Excellency. I am therefore sending instructions to the British Chargé d'Affaires as to the reply which should be given to your Excellency's letter to me, which has received my most careful consideration, and I take this opportunity of assuring your Excellency of my friendly sentiments and of my best wishes for your continued health and prosperity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 421.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 14.)

(No. 73. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, September* 14, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 72 of the 13th instant concerning Morocco and Spain, I have the honour to report that Mr. de Bunsen is informed by the Spanish Ambassador that his Excellency had this day a very discouraging interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Marquis del Muni submitted the clause which was communicated to your Lordship on the 16th August by the Spanish Ambassador in London, but M. Delcassé did not show that he had any previous knowledge of it. He rejected the idea entirely of any Spanish intervention during a period of fifteen years, in Northern Morocco, notwithstanding the proposal contained in the new clause to the effect that no action should be taken without previous agreement with France. The French Government would only undertake to inform Spain of the measures which they might have to adopt within the sphere destined to come eventually under Spanish influence.

This is considered quite unacceptable by the Spanish Ambassador.

No. 422.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 101.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 156 of the 28th ultimo, inclosing copies and translations of a letter which you received from the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs as well as of a letter addressed by his Excellency to me in regard to the case of Menebhi.

It would be unusual and undesirable that I should enter into direct communication with the Moorish Government, and I have addressed the accompanying letter to Ben Sliman, copy of which is also inclosed, suggesting that it would be more convenient and more in accordance with usage if correspondence on the above subject were continued through the British Legation, which has hitherto been the channel of all official communications between His Majesty's Government and that of His Shereefian Majesty.

I accordingly transmit to you herewith the draft of the reply which you should make to Ben Sliman in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 422.

[Printed separately.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 422.

Draft Reply from Mr. White to Ben Sliman.

September , 1904.

I AM directed by His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform your Excellency that he has received and carefully considered the note which you addressed to him on the 15th August, 1904 (2nd Jumad 2, 1322), as well as the letter which you wrote to me on the 20th August, 1904 (7th Jumad 2, 1322), a translation of which I forwarded to his Lordship, and I am now instructed to send the following reply to the above-mentioned communications.

Your Excellency contests the fact that the British protection accorded to Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi was granted in pursuance of a desire expressed by His Majesty the Sultan, and you even intimate that the grant of such protection was contrary to the wishes of His Majesty. I am instructed to point out that this interpretation of what occurred has caused much surprise to his Lordship.

His Majesty's Government had good reasons for believing that His Majesty the Sultan desired that British protection should be given to Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi; they were anxious to show their goodwill to His Majesty, and they therefore readily met His Majesty's desire. In order to remove all danger of a misunderstanding, a written Memorandum was handed to His Majesty by Kaid Sir H. Maclean stating that, in accordance with His Majesty's wish, such protection was granted. His Majesty's Minister was subsequently informed by Sir H. Maclean that the Sultan was grateful for this communication.

His Majesty's Government are unwilling to enter into a discussion on this point or to draw the Sultan's name into any controversy, but they feel bound to lay stress on the indubitable fact that the grant of the protection was communicated in writing, and the reasons for such grant distinctly stated, and that no objection, verbal or written, was ever made either to His Majesty's Government or to His Majesty's Minister. In these circumstances, it is impossible for His Majesty's Government to withdraw the protection, and they must consider Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi as entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded by Treaty to British protected persons.

Your Excellency in the two communications under acknowledgment refers to several matters with which it is difficult to deal in a diplomatic correspondence. Charges are adduced against Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi of misappropriation of public funds and other malpractices, and accusations are made against him which are not supported by any information in the possession of His Majesty's Government. If, however, the Moorish Government desire to charge Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi with acts which are illegal or deserving of punishment, such charges, supported by the necessary evidence, should be brought before the British Consular Court, the sole competent Tribunal, when a due and searching inquiry would be made in the presence of the accused. It is unnecessary to assure your Excellency that His Majesty's Government have no desire to shield the guilty or to condone malpractices, but by British law, to which Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi has a right to appeal, convincing proofs must be furnished, witnesses both for the prosecution and defence must be heard and cross-examined, and the accused given every opportunity of defending himself.

I am further instructed to say that although His Majesty's Government must insist on the rights which Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi has acquired by reason of his British protection being fully respected, and although they must demand the removal of the embargo which has been placed upon his property, they would be prepared to accept as a solution of the question that Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi, after the embargo has been removed, should realize all the property he holds in Morocco and withdraw with his family to Egypt or elsewhere.

I have, &c.

No. 423.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 102.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1904.

THE French Minister called at this office on the 7th instant and stated that, in compliance with my request, instructions had been sent to the French Minister at Tangier to co-operate with you in pressing upon the Moorish authorities a satisfactory settlement of

the question of the treatment of Menebhi. M. Geoffray added that if I had any further suggestions to offer, failing the solution of the Sultan allowing Menebhi to go to Egypt with a sufficient allowance to live there, M. Delcassé would be happy to consider them with a view to sending further instructions to M. St. René Taillandier.

M. Geoffray has been informed that I am extremely obliged to M. Delcassé for having given instructions to M. St. René in accordance with my request, and that if Menebhi is allowed to leave Morocco and to take with him a part, at any rate, of his fortune, some of which was, I had always understood, acquired by him quite irrespectively of any opportunities which his position as a Minister afforded to him, His Majesty's Government would be content. We could not, however, acquiesce in the personal ill-usage or utter spoliation of one who had, under very different circumstances, been promised the protection of this country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 424.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Adam.

(No. 126.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 14, 1904.

THE Spanish Ambassador called at this Office on the 7th instant, and with reference to the negotiations respecting Morocco, inquired whether the French Government had expressed any opinion upon the "clause de délimitation," the text of which his Excellency had communicated to me on the 16th ultimo, as recorded in my despatch No. 116 to Sir E. Egerton of that date.

The Duke de Mandas was informed that no communication on the subject had been received from the French Government, and that owing to my absence from London, to M. Delcassé being away from Paris, and also to the French Ambassador at Madrid not being at his post, no progress in the negotiations had been made, so far as His Majesty's Government were aware.

His Excellency said that he quite understood the difficulty, in the circumstances, of exchanging views, but added that he felt sure that the French Government would accept the clause in question if His Majesty's Government would recommend it with a little more vigour.

The French Minister, who called after the Spanish Ambassador, asked whether his Excellency had spoken about Morocco, and was informed of the inquiry made by the Duke de Mandas.

M. Geoffray said that he had forwarded the copy of the clause, given to him by Sir E. Gorst, to M. Delcassé, but had received no reply from Paris on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 425.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 16.)

(No. 507. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 14, 1904.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, by my telegram No. 72, Confidential, of yesterday, the fact that the Marquis del Muni, Spanish Ambassador in Paris, had made inquiry as to whether I had received instructions to support the new clause defining the conditions under which Spain should be allowed to exercise her influence during the next fifteen years in the sphere allotted to her in Northern Morocco which has been now put forward by the Spanish Government.

His Excellency asked this question in the course of an interview with Mr. de Bunsen, whom he had requested to call at the Spanish Embassy.

The allusion being clearly to the clause communicated to your Lordship by the Spanish Ambassador in London, Mr. de Bunsen said that he believed your Lordship had expressed to the Duc de Mandas a favourable opinion of its terms, which you had regarded, *primâ facie*, as reasonable. He added that he understood that your Lordship had promised to endeavour to find an opportunity of ascertaining the views of the French Government on the question, and that he imagined that your Lordship

was dealing with the question in an unofficial manner with the French Embassy in London.

In giving this reply to the Marquis del Muni, Mr. de Bunsen had in mind the contents of your Lordship's despatches No. 116 to Sir Edwin Egerton of the 16th, and No. 452, Confidential, to myself of the 17th of last month.

The Marquis del Muni, as usual, expressed himself as being thoroughly dissatisfied with the spirit in which the French Government had carried on the negotiations. He had found M. Delcassé hard and unsympathetic from the first, and he despaired of getting him to take a fair view of the position in which Spain was placed, and of the demands which her past relations with Morocco compelled her to make. Spain still counted, he said, mainly on the support of England to obtain what she wanted. England, he hoped, would be led by her own interest to assist Spain in frustrating the evident aim of France, which was to exclude Spain from all participation in the work of civilizing Morocco. France, it was true, had been obliged by the terms of her Agreement with England to recognize an eventual sphere of Spanish influence in Morocco; but Spain was not to exercise her influence there for fifteen years, and it was clear that by that time France would be so firmly established along the coast, as well as in the interior of the country, that it would be impossible for Spain to take her legitimate place in the zone allotted to her.

Thus M. Delcassé would have secured for his country, by indirect means, the control of Northern Morocco, which it had been the avowed object of the Anglo-French Agreement to reserve to her weaker neighbour.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

No. 426.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 17.)

(No. 509. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, September* 16, 1904.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, in my telegram No. 73, Confidential, of the 14th instant, the unsatisfactory result, as declared by the Spanish Ambassador in Paris, of the latter's first interview with the French Minister of Foreign Affairs on the subject of the recent proposals of the Spanish Government in respect of the partition of French and Spanish interests in Morocco.

The Marquis del Muni was closeted with M. Delcassé for an hour and a-half. On returning into the waiting-room he informed Mr. de Bunsen that his Excellency had been as discouraging as ever. Far from accepting a settlement on the basis proposed by Spain, which is to the effect that for the next fifteen years Spain shall take no action within her sphere in Northern Morocco without a previous understanding with France, M. Delcassé scouted entirely the idea of any Spanish penetration whatever into that sphere during the period in question, and would go no further than to offer that France would take no steps within the Spanish sphere without giving previous notice to Spain.

His Excellency said his Government could never accept such a proposal as this, and that he saw at present no way out of the difficulty.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador)
(Signed) M DE BUNSEN.

No. 427.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 19.)

(No 170.)

My Lord, *Tangier, September* 9, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 103 of the 2nd July regarding the French loan to Morocco, I have obtained through His Majesty's Consul at Daralbaida a copy of the extract from the Contract which was furnished to the Administrators of Customs at the various ports for their guidance. This extract only contains the first twenty-one Articles

of the Contract, but it enables me to supply some of the *lacunæ* in the extract published in the "Dépêche Coloniale" of the 24th July, inclosed in Sir E. Monson's despatch No. 447 of the 25th of that month.

I have the honour to transmit herewith translation from the Arabic of the clauses there omitted in case they may be of interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 427.

Extracts from Moorish Loan Contract.

(Translation.)

Praise to God.

BETWEEN the two undersigned, the Fki Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Shereefian Government, and the Chief Amin Sid Mohammed-ben-Abdelkrim Tazi, Minister of Finance to the said Shereefian Government, as Agents for their Government, in accordance with the Shereefian orders issued to them dated 16th Rabia 1, 1322 (1st June, 1904), of which a copy with its translation made by the Taleb Sid Abdelkader-ben-Ghabrit, Kadi, but not acting in that capacity, substitute of the Interpreter of the French Legation, whose signature is certified to by the French Vice-Consul at Féz, is attached to this Contract on the one side:

And the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas, Société Anonyme, 3, Rue d'Antin, Paris, represented by M. Georges Zangarussiano, under the power of attorney, dated 20th April, 1904, of which a copy, with a translation of the original, attested by the Minister of France at Tangier, is annexed to this Contract, acting firstly as Agent for it, the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas, Société Anonyme, 3, Rue d'Antin, Paris.

2. For the Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Société Anonyme, 14, Rue Bergère, Paris.

3. Compagnie Générale pour favoriser le développement de Commerce et de l'Industrie en France, 56, Rue de Provence, Paris.

4. For the Compagnie Marseillaise de Crédit Industrielle et Commercial et Dépôts, Marseille, Société Anonyme.

5. Compagnie Générale de Crédit Industrielle et Commercial, Société Anonyme, 66, Rue de la Victoire, Paris.

6. Banque Impériale Ottomane, Société Anonyme, with office at 7, Rue Meyerbeer, Paris.

7. Banque Française de Commerce et de l'Industrie, Société Anonyme, 9, Rue Boudrou [?], Paris.

8. Crédit Algérien, Société Anonyme, 10, Place Vendôme, Paris.

9. J. Allard et Cie., Société Anonyme, 10, Place de la Bourse, Paris.

10. Banque de l'Indo-Chine, Société Anonyme, 34, Rue Lafitte, Paris.

11. Banque Union de Paris, Société Anonyme, 7, Rue Chauchat, Paris, on the other side.

The following has been agreed:—

The Shereefian Government has decided to raise a loan guaranteed by the Customs revenues of the present existing Moorish ports and those which may hereafter be created, comprising the dues on its imports and exports; and the said Banks undertake to make this loan in the proportion hereinafter noted, and on the conditions hereinafter stated.

* * * * * * *

Article 5. . . . . The numbers drawn will be published by the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas in two newspapers in Paris and one newspaper in Tangier, the cost to be paid by the contracting Banks. Each bond, the number of which is drawn and brought by the bearer for payment, should be accompanied by all the coupons still remaining unpresented at the date of repayment, and if any of the coupons are missing their value will be deducted from the original value of the bonds the amount of the deficiency.

Article 6. The coupons which have been paid and the bonds whose numbers are drawn will be annulled by the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas, and will remain in the hands of the Bank until the Shereefian Government shall give instructions as to what is to be done to them.

Article 8. The printing of the bonds of this loan will be done by the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas and in accordance with the general bond annexed to this Contract, and the cost of the printing and stamping [?] will be borne by the Banks contracting this loan.

Article 10. . . . . And if any one of the documents of this loan should be lost, stolen, or destroyed, the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas will renew it and the cost thereof be borne by the Banks contracting this loan, but only after the loss is proved by the party who claims to have lost it and the production of proofs satisfactory to the Bank.

Article 11. . . . . As also there will be paid therefrom the sum of 75,000 fr. half-yearly, which the Moorish Government undertakes to pay to the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas as laid down in Article 23, and the service of the loan shall be paid each half-year; each six-monthly payment shall include, firstly, the amount of interest for each six months; secondly, the repayments of capital each half-year, also once the repayments of capital have begun; thirdly, the 75,000 fr. mentioned above; fourthly, charges for exchange. . . . .

The Minister of Finance to the Imperial Government stated after inquiry that the amount of the revenues for duties of the Moorish custom-houses for the last four years, *i.e.*, 1318 to 1321, (1900 to 1903) was for that term 48,946,670 pesetas, the details of which are:—

	Pesetas.
Tangier	7,764,660
Daralbaida	13,287,785
Mogador	6,002,650
Laraiche	4,360,000
Rabat	3,278,910
Mazagan	8,866,315
Saffi..	4,804,550
Tetuan	581,800

Article 12. . . . . The representative of the bondholders shall appoint a European agent on his behalf especially for this service, who shall not engage in business in Morocco, to represent him at the ports, to act for him as agent, wholly or in part, as also he shall employ the men he requires to attend to his duties, and the number at each port shall not exceed four; these employés shall obey his commands and their engagement and dismissal shall be in his hands, and they shall pay no attention to any orders but his; and every document concerning the administration of this loan shall be signed by the agent of the bondholders, and he can confide his commands in the said matters, wholly or in part, to whomsoever he pleases. The Imperial Government shall take all necessary measures for the safety of the agents of the bondholders, his agents and the persons in his service, as also their places of residence and the place where the documents and money are placed.

Article 13. The Imperial Government shall appoint a special agent on its behalf as intermediary between it and the representative of the bondholders. His place of residence shall be Tangier. He shall give accurate news of all matters relating to this loan as agent for his Government, as also he must send to the Umana of the port orders similar to those sent by the representative of the bondholders to their agents after mutual agreement between them. The salary of the said representative and his expenses shall be at the charge of the Imperial Government.

Article 14. . . . . As also a copy of all rules and regulations, &c., concerning this shall be annexed to this contract.

Article 15. The Imperial Government shall take all precautions to prevent fraud in the custom-houses as regards altering payments of duties or neglect in recovering them, and every fraud proved to any one of the agents of the representatives of the bondholders shall be reported at once to the Umana of the port and to the said representative of the bondholders at Tangier, who shall inform the Representative of the Imperial Government, who must take the necessary measures to compel the defrauders to pay the amount of the duty defrauded, and to collect a penalty from them and from the Umana on behalf of the Imperial Government, to prevent a recurrence of the fraud. Should a recurrence of the fraud be committed and nothing be done on the complaints of the representative of the bondholders he shall request the Imperial Government to remove the culpable Amin or functionary, and this after two months from the date of notice of the offence having been proved.

Article 18. The representative of the bondholders shall transmit to the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas regularly and constantly all the payments he receives, having exchanged them into francs, and each fifteen days he shall forward a note of such payments to the Imperial Government.

Article 19. The exchange, either by bills or otherwise, shall be effected at Tangier daily for account of the Imperial Government, and in the most favourable manner for it, after agreement between the representative of the bondholders and the Representative of the Imperial Government, and if any disagreement arises between them the representative of the

bondholders must protest in writing against the Representative of the Imperial Government, and effect the exchange himself, and transmit a copy of the said letter to the Representative of the Moorish Government. Bills may be purchased at the other ports as far as may be possible after agreement with the agent of the representative of the bondholders and the Amin appointed by the Moorish Government and, should any disagreement arise between them, the agent shall protest against the Amin in writing and effect the exchange himself, notifying the representative of the bondholders at Tangier so that he may inform the Representative of the Moorish Government of the occurrence.

Article 20. Whenever, before the end of the year, the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas shall have received the whole sum due for the two half-years, corresponding to the whole year, the representative of the bondholders shall notify the Representative of the Imperial Government thereof and send instructions to his agents at the ports to cease collecting the payments from the Umana, and at the commencement of the half-year of the following year they shall resume their duties in the manner laid down in Article 17, *i.e.*, at the commencement of the first half-year of the following year.

Article 21. If within two months of the completion of each of the half-yearly terms the total of the sums received by the representative of the bondholders at Tangier in accordance with the limited receipts laid down in Article 17 are insufficient to meet the obligations of the current half-year, the representative of the bondholders shall notify the Representative of the Imperial Government thereof, so that he may complete the deficiency, fifteen days after such notification, from the other revenues of the Imperial Government and particularly from the balance of the customs receipts which remain intact to the Imperial Government, and repayment of the deficiency shall be made to the representative of the bondholders so that it may be in Paris at the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas in francs one month before the completion of the half-year. And, in order that the payment of the half-yearly obligations may be punctual, the Imperial Government agrees to deposit 2,000,000 fr. at the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas to remain in its charge until the loan is repaid in full. And, on the supposition that the amount of the half-yearly obligation has not reached the Banque de Paris et Pays-Bas one month before it is due, it may complete the deficiency from the sum deposited with it without giving previous notice, in order to complete the half-yearly payments pending the repayment of the deficiency by the Imperial Government as indicated in the above. In any case this arrangement will not counteract the undertaking of the Imperial Government to complete the half-yearly obligation from all its sources of revenue if the revenues of the custom-houses are insufficient. And if the amount deposited at the Bank is drawn upon, the Imperial Government must complete the deficiency within a short time from its Imperial revenue. And if the time for the half-yearly payment arrives and the Moorish Government has not repaid the amount taken from the sum deposited at the Bank, the representative of the bondholders shall notify the Representative of the Imperial Government thereof, and they will both issue instructions, the former to his agents and the latter to the Umana of the port, so that a supplementary sum to that collected daily shall be added to complete the amount taken from the deposit within a term of two months.

No. 428.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 22.)

(No. 129.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 22, 1904.

I BEG to report, with regret, the capture at Rabat of Mr. Lee, an Englishman. As I have not received the despatch of the Vice-Consul reporting the capture, no details have reached me, though an express courier has arrived with a later despatch, containing complaints that the Basha of Rabat has not shown any energy. Sid Torres has been asked by me for a letter to the Basha, with instructions that everything possible be done by him to procure the captive's liberation.

No. 429.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 22.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 22, 1904.

WITH reference to my last telegram.

I have now received the despatch of the Vice-Consul. In company with another Englishman, Mr. Lee was on the river in a boat when some tribesmen attacked them. Mr. Lee's companion succeeded in escaping. A telegram has just reached me from Gibraltar, reporting that news has been received there, through a steamer which has just arrived from Rabat, of the release of Mr. Lee and his arrival in safety at Rabat.

No. 430.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 23.)

(No. 131.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 23, 1904.

MY telegram No. 130 of the 22nd instant.

Despatch from Vice-Consul at Rabat has just reached me stating that the captive has been released through the influence of a Moor whom the French Vice-Consul introduced to him. The assistance of the French Vice-Consul was of the greatest value.

No. 431.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 24.)

(No. 132.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 24, 1904.

WITH reference to the last paragraph ot your Lordship's despatch No. 102 of the 14th instant:

I am informed by Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi that he holds two classes of property: first, those of which he holds title-deeds and are freehold; and secondly, those Government lands he holds in usufruct by grants under the Sultan's seal. Would your Lordship authorize me to demand that he be allowed to realize all his properties of the first category, and that he be recompensed to the full amount of his outlay on improvements and buildings on properties of the second class, as is customary in this country?

No. 432.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received September* 28.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, September* 28, 1904.

I AM informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he had an interview last night with the Spanish Ambassador of more than two hours' duration, and that he has good hopes of being able to arrive at an understanding on the subject of Morocco.

As to the nature of that understanding he did not enter into any details; but on the value of perseverance in the prosecution of pacific penetration and of patience he laid great stress.

From this I deduced that he had not much confidence in Spain being possessed of these qualities.

No. 433.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1904.

YOUR telegram No. 132 of the 24th instant.

I approve your proposal to claim for Sid Menebhi the right of retaining or realizing all the properties which he holds under title-deeds. We do not, however, consider it possible to support the claim for unexhausted improvements on Government lands which were granted to him under the Sultan's seal.

No. 434.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 507.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1904.

I EXPRESSED to the French Minister, who called upon me to-day, the satisfaction with which I had learned that the Representative of the French Government at Tangier had been co-operating with our Representative in reference to the settlement of the affairs of Sid Menebhi. I said that it would have been impossible for us to allow Menebhi to be treated with gross injustice by the Sultan, but that the case was one in which I had from the first recognized that it was desirable for us to act in close co-operation with the French Government.

M. Geoffray asked me whether I was aware of the proposal which he had made to Sir Francis Bertie on the 23rd instant. I said that it had been reported to me, and that I thought the idea an excellent one. I had, in fact, already desired that Mr. White should be instructed to say that we should be satisfied if the Sultan would allow Menebhi to retain the whole of the property held by him under his title-deeds. M. Geoffray told me that most of this was in, or in the neighbourhood of, Tangier, and that its value amounted to 1,000,000 dollars or 800,000 dollars. I said that it had also been suggested that Menebhi might receive some payment in respect of buildings and improvements made by him upon other lands held by him by grants from the Sultan. As to this, the case seemed to me less clear, but I should be glad if it were found possible to let Menebhi receive any compensation which would be in accordance with the custom of the country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 435.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Adam.

(No. 130.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, September* 28, 1904.

THE Spanish Ambassador informed me to-day, explaining that he did so unofficially, that he had reason to believe that the French and Spanish Governments had now come to terms with regard to their interests in Morocco. His Excellency believed that the draft clause, of which he had given me a copy on the 16th ultimo, had been accepted by M. Delcassé with some unimportant modifications. His Excellency added that, considering all that had happened, he should not venture to regard the matter as having been really settled until the documents had been actually signed. I expressed the great satisfaction with which I received his Excellency's statement, and my hope that his Excellency's announcement would prove to be well founded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 436.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, September* 29, 1904.

IN continuance of my telegram No. 57 of yesterday's date, we consider the claims advanced by Menebhi for buildings and improvements on Government lands much less strong than those in regard to property which he holds under title-deeds, and we do not, therefore, see our way to insisting on their admission. We should, however, be glad for Menebhi to receive any compensation to which, following the custom of the country, he might be entitled.

No. 437.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received September 30.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, September* 30, 1904.

A DESPATCH received to-day from the British Consular Agent at Arzila, reports the assassination of the Governor of that town yesterday afternoon in his own house. He adds that the inhabitants are much alarmed because the tribes threaten to attack and pillage the town.

No. 438.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 524. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 29, 1904.

I ASKED M. Delcassé yesterday what progress he was making in his negotiation with the Spanish Government on the question of Morocco. I did not, of course, refer to the report which had been circulated in the press here that those negotiations had completely broken down, inasmuch as a *dementi* had been given to that report both in Paris and Madrid.

His Excellency said that the progress was decidedly favourable—so much so, that he hoped before long to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. He had had an interview with the Spanish Ambassador the preceding afternoon of more than two hours' duration, upon which he founded this expectation.

M. Delcassé did not show any disposition to enter into details, either as to his conversation with M. Léon y Castillo, or as to the agreement which he hoped to carry through, but at once adverted at some length to his sanguine anticipations of the success of the peaceful penetration policy which he advocated in regard to Morocco, and which I concluded that he did not feel sure that the Spaniards would have either the patience or the perseverance to follow. This led him into a disquisition upon the character of the Moors, whom he described as being in no way influenced by religious fanaticism, nor even by any patriotic sentiment. Both these motives of opposition to foreign influences being wanting, and the Moors being very much alive to their own interests in matters of trade and commerce, M. Delcassé had a strong persuasion that the pacific penetration of French civilization and progress would proceed among them very much more quickly than is generally believed.

He adverted to the fact that large numbers of them passed yearly already into Algeria for harvesting purposes, as a proof that there was no general indisposition to come into closer contact with French civilization.

The French Minister at Tangier is at present on leave in France, and is constantly at the Quai d'Orsay. M. Delcassé said that he would probably be sent to Fez during the month of November.

His Excellency was certainly optimistic in his anticipations and appreciations, and gave me to understand that the opinion of M. Saint-René Taillandier had greatly encouraged him in forming them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 439.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 23, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I duly received your Lordship's despatch No. 101 of the 14th instant regarding the case of Sid-el-Menebhi, and I forwarded to Fez, by special courier, who left early this morning, your Lordship's letter to Sid-ben-Sliman, together with the letter signed by myself, the draft of which was inclosed in the above-mentioned despatch.

The courier should reach Fez on the 26th instant, and I have instructed Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, when delivering the letters to Ben Sliman, to impress on his Excellency the desirability of bringing this question to a satisfactory settlement without further delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 440.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 158 of the 28th ultimo regarding the appointment of Sid Abdesslam Tazi as successor of Sid-el-Torres, I have the honour to report that I am informed by the French Chargé d'Affaires that some difficulties have arisen in regard to the extent of the powers to be conferred on him. Sid-el-Tazi, it appears, is anxious to possess greater powers than have been intrusted to Sid Torres, and insists that all communications with the foreign Representatives should pass solely through him, whereas at present it is customary on any matter of importance to correspond directly with Sid-ben-Sliman.

There is some reluctance at the Court to accede to Sid-el-Tazi's desires in this respect, and this, I understand, is the cause of the delay that has arisen in his taking up the appointment. The foreign Representatives at Tangier would be very unwilling to depart from the present custom of addressing themselves direct to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Court when necessary, especially as Sid-el-Tazi is known to be very reactionary, for it would probably give rise to even greater difficulty and delay in obtaining the settlement of affairs than at present exist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 441.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 4, 1904.)

(No. 178.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 24, 1904.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 102 of the 14th instant, I should be grateful for your Lordship's instructions as to the realization of Sid-el-Menebhi's properties, should the Sultan accept the proposal that has been put forward for the settlement of the question by his retiring to Egypt with his family after selling off all his property.

I understand from Sid-el-Menebhi that he has landed property of two classes, viz., freehold estates inherited or purchased by himself, and land belonging to the Government of which he enjoys the usufruct by virtue of grants under the Sultan's seal.

With regard to the former class of properties, Sid-el-Menebhi has explained to me that it has always been his custom to invest in the purchase of land all the profits accruing from certain of his estates, and in this manner he has very largely added to the landed property he inherited from his father. He holds title deeds for all these

properties, and, happily, they were deposited at a bank in London, so were not seized when, as it is alleged, his other properties were taken from his houses at Marrakesh.

Sid-el-Menebhi also has in safety the Royal Grant in regard to the Government properties of which he has the usufruct. These properties he is willing to return to the Sultan; but he claims that he is entitled, according to the custom in such cases, to receive the present value of the permanent improvements, such as buildings, &c., which he has made at his own expense.

In addition to the landed property, Sid-el-Menebhi has, or rather had—for I believe there has been considerable looting since the embargo was laid on the properties—stock, grain, and other produce to a very considerable value.

Sid-el-Menebhi naturally expects, under the proposed arrangement, should it be accepted, to be permitted to sell at their fair market value all his freehold property and all his stock, produce, &c., and to be paid by the Government a fair valuation of the buildings, &c., he has erected on the Government lands. He would have no difficulty in selling to private individuals the stock, grain, &c., and he has had an offer from a French Company to take over all his freehold properties, should the Sultan not decide to purchase them himself; therefore the realization of the whole property could be speedily effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 442.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, October* 4, 1904.

I AM informed by the Spanish Ambassador that the text of the Franco-Spanish Convention concerning Morocco, which will not be published for five years, was forwarded last night to London by M. Delcassé.

Of course the text of the Declaration will shortly be published for the information of the public.

No. 443.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 514.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1904.

THE French Ambassador spoke to me to-day upon the subject of the treatment of Sid El Menebhi by the Moorish Government, repeating to me the statement that had already been made by M. Geoffray upon this subject. He expressed the opinion that if Menebhi was allowed to retain the property which he held under title-deeds in the neighbourhood of Tangier, sufficient provision would be made for him. The value of this property was about 1,000,000 fr. I said that it seemed to me more logical, as well as fairer, to make a distinction not between Menebhi's possessions in or near Tangier and those which were situated in other parts of the country, but between property which was absolutely his own, the title-deeds being in his possession, and property of which he enjoyed the use only under grants from the Sultan. I understood that a considerable part of the estates which fell within the former category were not near Tangier, and I therefore hoped that it would be possible to arrange that all property to which he had a legal title should be preserved for him. M. Cambon raised no objection to my proposal, and promised to make inquiries as to the possibility of giving effect to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 444.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. Adam.

(No. 131.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 5, 1904.

THE Spanish Ambassador told me to-day that he was glad to be able to inform me that an Agreement between France and Spain with regard to their interests in Morocco had now been actually signed. It was not, however, to be published yet. His Excellency was good enough to say that the close watch which His Majesty's Government had kept upon the proceedings had been of the greatest service to the Spanish Government, who were extremely grateful to us.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 445.

M. Cambon to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 6.)

(Secret.) *Ambassade de France à Londres, le 6 Octobre*, 1904.

Cher Lord Lansdowne,

JE suis chargé de vous communiquer les Arrangements qui viennent d'être conclus entre la France et l'Espagne au sujet du Maroc. Ils ont été signés le 3 courant par notre Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et l'Ambassadeur d'Espagne à Paris; ils se composent d'une Déclaration générale, destinée à être publiée, et d'une Convention, qui doit rester secrète.

En me prescrivant de vous remettre le texte de cet accord, conformément aux dispositions de l'Article VIII de notre Déclaration du 8 Avril, 1904, M. Delcassé a insisté sur le caractère confidentiel de cette communication et m'a chargé de vous prier de vouloir bien tenir la Convention absolument secrète.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PAUL CAMBON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 445.

Declaration signed at Paris, October 3, 1904.

LE Gouvernement de la République Française et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, s'étant mis d'accord pour fixer l'étendue des droits et la garantie des intérêts qui résultent, pour la France, de ses possessions Algériennes, et, pour l'Espagne, de ses possessions sur la côte du Maroc, et, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne ayant en conséquence donné son adhésion à la Déclaration Franco-Anglaise du 8 Avril, 1904, relative au Maroc et à l'Égypte, dont communication lui avait été faite par le Gouvernement de la République Française, déclarent qu'ils demeurent fermement attachés à l'intégrité de l'Empire Marocain sous la souveraineté du Sultan.

En foi de quoi les Soussignés, son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et son Excellence l'Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne près le Président de la République Française, dûment autorisés à cet effet, ont dressé la présente Déclaration, qu'ils ont revêtue de leurs cachets.

Fait, en double exemplaire, à Paris, le 3 Octobre, 1904.

(Signé) DELCASSÉ.
F. DE LÉON Y CASTILLO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 445.

Convention between France and Spain, signed at Paris, October 3, 1904.

(Secret.)

LE Président de la République Française et Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, voulant fixer l'étendue des droits et la garantie des intérêts qui résultent, pour la France, de

ses possessions Algériennes, et, pour l'Espagne, de ses possessions sur la côte du Maroc, ont décidé de conclure une Convention et ont nommé, à cet effet, pour leurs Plénipotentiaires, savoir:

Le Président de la République Française, son Excellence M. Th. Delcassé, Député, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la République Française, &c.; et

Sa Majesté le Roi d'Espagne, son Excellence M. de Léon y Castillo, Marquis del Muni, son Ambassadeur Extraordinaire et Plénipotentiaire près le Président de la République Française, &c.;

Lesquels, après s'être communiqué leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des Articles suivants:—

ARTICLE I.

L'Espagne adhère, aux termes de la présente Convention, à la Déclaration Franco-Anglaise du 8 Avril, 1904, relative au Maroc et à l'Égypte.

ARTICLE II.

La région située à l'ouest et au nord de la ligne ci-après déterminée constitue la sphère d'influence qui résulte pour l'Espagne de ses possessions sur la Côte Marocaine de la Méditerranée.

Dans cette zone est réservée à l'Espagne la même action qui est reconnue à la France par le deuxième paragraphe de l'Article 2 de la Déclaration du 8 Avril, 1904, relative au Maroc et à l'Égypte.

Toutefois, tenant compte des difficultés actuelles et de l'intérêt réciproque qu'il y a à les aplanir, l'Espagne déclare qu'elle n'exercera cette action qu'après accord avec la France pendant la première période d'application de la présente Convention, période qui ne pourra pas excéder quinze ans à partir de la signature de la Convention.

De son côté, pendant la même période, la France, désirant que les droits et les intérêts reconnus à l'Espagne par la présente Convention soient toujours respectés, fera part préalablement au Gouvernement du Roi de son action près du Sultan du Maroc en ce qui concerne la sphère d'influence Espagnole.

Cette première période expirée, et tant que durera le *statu quo*, l'action de la France près du Gouvernement Marocain, en ce qui concerne la sphère d'influence réservée à l'Espagne, ne s'exercera qu'après accord avec le Gouvernement Espagnol.

Pendant la première période, le Gouvernement de la République Française fera son possible pour que, dans deux des ports à douane de la région ci-après déterminée, le Délégué du Représentant Général des porteurs de l'emprunt Marocain du 12 Juillet, 1904, soit de nationalité Espagnole.

Partant de l'embouchure de la Moulouia dans la Mer Méditerranée, la ligne visée ci-dessus remontera le thalweg de ce fleuve jusqu'à l'alignement de la crête des hauteurs les plus rapprochées de la rive gauche de l'Oued Defla. De ce point, et sans pouvoir, en aucun cas, couper le cours de la Moulouia, la ligne de démarcation gagnera, aussi directement que possible, la ligne de faite séparant les bassins de la Moulouia et de l'Oued Inaouen de celui de l'Oued Kert, puis elle continuera vers l'ouest par la ligne de faite séparant les bassins de l'Oued Inanouen de l'Oued Sebou de ceux de l'Oued Kert et de l'Oued Ouergha, pour gagner par la crête la plus septentrionale le Djebel Moulai Bou Chta. Elle remontera ensuite vers le nord, en se tenant à une distance d'au moins 25 kilom. à l'est de la route de Fez à Kçar-el-Kébir par Ouezzan jusqu'à la rencontre de l'Oued Loukkos ou Oued-el-Kous, dont elle descendra le thalweg jusqu'à une distance de 5 kilom. en aval du croisement de cette rivière avec la route précitée de Kçar-el-Kébir par Ouezzan. De ce point, elle gagnera, aussi directement que possible, le rivage de l'Océan Atlantique au-dessus de la lagune de Ez Zerga.

Cette délimitation est conforme à la délimitation tracée sur la carte annexée à la présente Convention sous le No. 1.

ARTICLE III.

Dans le cas où l'état politique du Maroc et le Gouvernement Chérifien ne pourraient plus subsister ou si, par la faiblesse de ce Gouvernement et par son

impuissance persistante à assurer la sécurité et l'ordre publics ou, pour toute autre cause, à constater d'un commun accord, le maintien du *statu quo* devenait impossible, l'Espagne pourrait exercer librement son action dans la région délimitée à l'Article précédent, et qui constitue dès à présent sa sphère d'influence.

ARTICLE IV.

Le Gouvernement Marocain ayant, par l'Article VII du Traité du 26 Avril, 1860, concédé à l'Espagne un établissement à Santa Cruz de Mar Pequeña (Ifni), il est entendu que le territoire de cet établissement ne dépassera pas le cours de l'Oued Tazeroualt depuis sa source jusqu'à son confluent avec l'Oued Mesa, et le cours de l'Oued Mesa depuis ce confluent jusqu'à la mer, selon la Carte No. 2 annexée à la présente Convention.

ARTICLE V.

Pour compléter la délimitation indiquée par l'Article I de la Convention du 27 Juin, 1900, il est entendu que la démarcation entre les sphères d'influence Française et Espagnole partira de l'intersection du méridien 14° 20′ ouest de Paris avec le 26° de latitude nord, qu'elle suivra vers l'est jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le méridien 11° ouest de Paris. Elle remontera ce méridien jusqu'à sa rencontre avec l'Oued Draa, puis le thalweg de l'Oued Draa jusqu'à sa rencontre avec le méridien 10° ouest de Paris, enfin le méridien 10° ouest de Paris jusqu'à la ligne de faite entre les bassins de l'Oued Draa et de l'Oued Sous, et suivra, dans la direction de l'ouest, la ligne de faite entre les bassins de l'Oued Draa et de l'Oued Sous, puis entre les bassins côtiers de l'Oued Mesa et de l'Oued Noun jusqu'au point le plus rapproché de la source de l'Oued Tazeroualt.

Cette délimitation est conforme à la délimitation tracée sur la Carte No. 2 déjà citée et annexée à la présente Convention.

ARTICLE VI.

Les Articles IV et V seront applicables en même temps que l'Article II de la présente Convention.

Toutefois, le Gouvernement de la République Française admet que l'Espagne s'établisse à tout moment dans la partie définie par l'Article IV, à la condition de s'être préalablement entendue avec le Sultan.

De même, le Gouvernement de la République Française reconnaît dès maintenant au Gouvernement Espagnol pleine liberté d'action sur la région comprise entre les 26° et 27° 40′ de latitude nord et le méridien 11° ouest de Paris, qui sont en dehors du territoire Marocain.

ARTICLE VII.

L'Espagne s'engage à n'aliéner ni à céder sous aucune forme, même à titre temporaire, tout ou partie des territoires désignés aux Articles II, IV, et V de la présente Convention.

ARTICLE VIII.

Si, dans l'application des Articles II, IV, et V de la présente Convention, une action militaire s'imposait à l'une des deux Parties Contractantes, elle en avertirait aussitôt l'autre partie. En aucun cas il ne sera fait appel au concours d'une Puissance étrangère.

ARTICLE IX.

La ville de Tanger gardera le caractère spécial que lui donnent la présence du Corps Diplomatique et ses institutions municipale et sanitaire.

ARTICLE X.

Tant que durera l'état politique actuel, les entreprises de travaux publics, chemins de fer, routes, canaux partant d'un point du Maroc pour aboutir dans la région visée à l'Article II et *vice versâ*, seront exécutées par des Sociétés que pourront constituer des Français et des Espagnols.

De même, il sera loisible aux Français et aux Espagnols au Maroc de s'associer pour l'exploitation des mines, carrières, et généralement d'entreprises d'ordre économique.

ARTICLE XI.

Les écoles et établissements Espagnols actuellement existants au Maroc seront respectés. La circulation de la monnaie Espagnole ne sera ni empêchée ni entravée. Les Espagnols continueront de jouir au Maroc des droits que leur assurent les Traités, Conventions, et usages en vigueur, y compris le droit de navigation et de pêche, dans les eaux et ports Marocains.

ARTICLE XII.

Les Français jouiront, dans les régions désignées aux Articles II, IV, et V de la présente Convention, des mêmes droits qui sont, par l'Article précédent, reconnus aux Espagnols dans le reste du Maroc.

ARTICLE XIII.

Dans le cas où le Gouvernement Marocain en interdirait la vente sur son territoire, les deux Puissances Contractantes s'engagent à prendre, dans leurs possessions d'Afrique, les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher que les armes et les munitions soient introduites en contrebande au Maroc.

ARTICLE XIV.

Il est entendu que la zone visée au paragraphe 1 de l'Article 7 de la Déclaration Franco-Anglaise du 8 Avril, 1904. relative au Maroc et à l'Égypte, commence sur la côte à 30 kilom. au sud-est de Melilla.

ARTICLE XV.

Dans le cas où la dénonciation prévue par le paragraphe 3 de l'Article 4 de la Déclaration Franco-Anglaise, relative au Maroc et à l'Égypte, aurait eu lieu, les Gouvernements Français et Espagnol se concerteront pour l'établissement d'un régime économique qui réponde particulièrement à leurs intérêts réciproques.

ARTICLE XVI.

La présente Convention sera publiée lorsque les deux Gouvernements jugeront, d'un commun accord, qu'elle peut l'être sans inconvénients.

En tous cas, elle pourra être publiée par l'un des deux Gouvernements à l'expiration de la première période de son application, période qui est définie au paragraphe 3 de l'Article II.

En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs ont signé la présente Convention et l'ont revêtue de leurs cachets.

Fait, en double exemplaire, à Paris, le 3 Octobre, 1904.

(L.S.) (Signé) DELCASSÉ.
(L.S.) (Signé) F. DE LÉON Y CASTILLO.

No. 446.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to M. Cambon.

Dear M. Cambon, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1904.

I HAVE had the pleasure of receiving your letter of to-day's date covering the two documents which you had been instructed to communicate to me, in accordance with Article 8 of the "Declaration respecting Egypt and Morocco" of the 8th April last.

I need not say that the confidential character of the "Convention" entered into by the President of the French Republic and the King of Spain in regard to French and Spanish interests in Morocco is fully recognized by us and will be duly respected. The shorter paper, or "Declaration," made by the two Governments is, I understand, public property.

With best thanks, I am, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 447.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 515. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1904.

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day, and left with me the papers of which copies are attached to this despatch.* I expressed my satisfaction that this somewhat difficult question should have been satisfactorily adjusted.

I subsequently sent to his Excellency a letter of which a copy is also inclosed herewith.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 448.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 529.)

My Lord, *Paris, October* 7, 1904.

IN all recent discussions concerning French action in Morocco, a distinction has been drawn between the policy which it is expedient to adopt respectively in the regions adjoining the Algerian frontier and in the remaining parts of the country. Whereas, as regards Morocco as a whole, the French Government aim at "pacific penetration" to be pursued in the name of the Sultan and with the assistance of French officers and advisers dependent on the French Legation at Tangier or placed by the latter at the Sultan's disposal, the frontier districts have been the subject of special arrangements between the Representative of the Sultan and the Governor-General of Algeria negotiating at Algiers. The upshot of these arrangements has been the establishment of a free zone along the frontier at which markets are held and goods exchanged without payment of customs duties, and further the fixing of a new frontier-line in the Figuig region and southwards, lying considerably to the west of the line generally accepted before the recent attack on French troops and the raids on the French lines of communication to the south which followed that attack. The French posts on the route to Touat and Tidikelt have also been considerably strengthened and rendered more mobile.

A further development of the frontier policy indicated above appears to be now in contemplation, and advantage has been taken of the presence in Paris of M. Jonnart, Governor-General of Algeria, General Lyantey, commanding the French troops at Ain-Sefra, in Southern Oran, and M. Saint-René Taillandier, French Minister at Tangier, to hold consultations with a view to deciding on the best course to be pursued.

I have the honour to forward herewith an article from the "Temps" offering suggestions on this point,* to the effect, mainly, that a French military post be established

* No. 445. † No. 446.

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at Ras-el-Ain, in order to overawe the neighbouring tribes, and that the Sultan be induced to appoint a Governor over the frontier districts not reached by the authority of the existing Moorish Governors at Oudjda and Figuig. The Moorish frontier authorities should be encouraged, in the writer's opinion, to institute gradually a settled system of government, and to bring the tribes under some scheme of taxation as has been done in Tunis. For this purpose it is essential that they should be supported by an armed force, receiving regular pay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 449.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 8.)

(No. 532. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 7, 1904.

I CALLED on the Spanish Ambassador by appointment on the 4th instant, and he informed me, as I reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 77 of that date, that M. Delcassé had sent a special messenger to London the evening before, in order that the text of the Treaty between France and Spain, as well as the Declaration drawn up for the purpose of publication, should be communicated to your Lordship without loss of time.

In the course of a long conversation, which, as is usual with M. Leon y Castillo, was concerned very much with "ancient history," he said that though his Government professed to be satisfied with the result of the negotiations, he could not follow their lead. He was anything but satisfied himself, but both the Spanish President of the Council and the Minister of Foreign Affairs were weak and pusillanimous.

He indulged, as he has so frequently done before, in very bitter language against M. Delcassé; accusing him of direct mendacity and want of good faith; and it is evident that he believes that, in the interval which has been reserved for comparative inaction in Northern Morocco, the French Government will pursue a policy calculated to frustrate Spanish aims, and to throw the so-called Spanish sphere eventually into the arms of this Republic.

On the succeeding day I saw M. Delcassé, who confirmed the information of the Spanish Ambassador that the texts of the Treaty and Declaration had been communicated to your Lordship. I congratulated him on the conclusion of a very troublesome negotiation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 450.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 179.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 30, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, as reports have appeared in the Spanish newspapers recently to the effect that Algerian forces have occupied various positions on the Moorish frontier, I inquired of the French Chargé d'Affaires if there was any truth in them. He tells me that a force of 400 or 500 men, mostly Algerians, have occupied a place named "Ras-el-Ain," which is situated in the debatable territory beyond Tenieh Sassi, and inhabited by tribes, some of which are Moorish and some Algerians.

He added that the object of stationing a force at this spot is to cut off Bu Amama from moving southwards, as, should he attempt to do so, he must either pass by "Ras-el-Ain," which is one of the regular halting-places on the road to the south, with a plentiful water supply, or else make a long and difficult detour to the westward. He remarked they would be very pleased if they could catch Bu Amama, as he is a source of much trouble to the French on the frontier, because of the constant raids

* Not printed.

that are committed there, of which he is the moving spirit, but that he is not of sufficient importance to make it worth their while to take any serious measures to capture or rid themselves of him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 451.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 180.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 30, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 146 of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod informed me on the 22nd instant that there were native rumours in Fez that the pretender had returned to Taza, or was on his way to that town. The French Chargé d'Affaires, of whom I inquired whether he had received any news to this effect, told me he had not. He said he had received information that the pretender's adherents had retaken Aioun Sidi Millouk, but did not know whether the pretender was with them, nor had he any news of his whereabouts. It would appear that they have reoccupied that place without any opposition, as the Government forces which were there had practically all deserted owing to their inability to obtain their pay, which is, I understand, considerably in arrears.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 452.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 1, 1904.

WITH reference to Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 92 of the 18th June, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Acting Consul at Dar-al-Baida informs me that Hadj Hamed-ben-el-Arbi-el-Mediouni has been reappointed Governor of that town, and that his Khalifa had taken possession of the Government house for him, although not without some resistance on the part of the late Governor, Sid Lyashi Saidi.

The new Governor arrived there on the 24th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 453.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 184.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 1, 1904.

THE British Consular Agent at Alcazar informs me that the Oomana, who were sent by the Moorish Government into the Gharb district to collect the taxes under the Tertib Regulations, of which a copy was transmitted to your Lordship in Sir Arthur Nicolson's despatch No. 81 of the 22nd May, 1902, were assaulted by the tribesmen at the Seboo River, and had their animals and all their baggage and clothes taken, and were themselves beaten.

Reports from Morocco city and the south all agree that the Oomana sent to those districts are remaining in the towns, and do not venture out into the tribes to collect the taxes.

There seems to be a general unwillingness among the population all over the country to pay any contributions after being exempt for two years, and I am of

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opinion that the Government will make little headway in this respect until it is enabled to enforce payment on some of the tribes, when probably there will be little difficulty with the rest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 454.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 185.)
My Lord, *Tangier, September* 30, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, informing your Lordship of the assassination of the Governor of Arzili, I have the honour to report that the deceased Governor was only appointed to that district on the removal of Kaid Abdessadek at the request of Raissouli.

Up to the time of writing I have received no details from the British Consular Agent at Arzila, but I gather from the rumours current here that the Governor, in a fit of passion, shot an Arzila Moor, which so incensed the townspeople that they attacked him in his house, and he, in seeking to escape, fell from a window and so injured himself that he remained where he fell until discovered, when he was shot. His son, it is said, managed to escape.

It would thus appear that the matter thus far is confined to the townspeople, and the tribes are not implicated in it in any way.

The British Consular Agent, in his despatch to me, appeals for assistance, as there is great alarm amongst the inhabitants owing to the threats of the neighbouring tribes to attack and sack the town. Similar letters have been received by some of the other Legations.

As it is not improbable that some attempt may be made against the town when the tribes hear of the death of the Governor, I sent to Hadj Mohammed Torres to ask if he intended to send them any assistance, and I understand that the Italian Minister and the French Chargé d'Affaires have also done so. His Excellency assures me that he has written to the principal men of Arzila asking them if they consider it necessary, for the safety of the town, to have assistance, and on receipt of their reply he will consider what steps are to be taken.

Some days ago I received a request from the British Consular Agent to obtain permission from the Moorish authorities for the introduction of food-stuffs, of which there is a great scarcity there, by sea from Tangier and Laraiche, as communication by land is almost impossible owing to the disturbed state of the roads; some small parties of traders having recently been looted.

I placed the matter in the hands of my French colleague, who now informs me that the authorities are unwilling to accede to this request at present, as there are no means at Arzila for checking contraband trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 455.

Mr. Adam to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 13.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, October* 13, 1904.

MOROCCO. With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 39 of the 4th October.

Text of Declaration signed at Paris on the 3rd October in regard to Morocco has been sent in form of a Circular Royal Order by Minister of Foreign Affairs to Heads of Missions abroad for communication to the Governments to which they are accredited. The Royal Order is published in the "Madrid Gazette" of to-day.

I am sending copies and translation to-night by post.

No. 456.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 188.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 9, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 174 of the 14th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French Mission, which was to have gone to Fez this month, has been postponed until the middle of December. I understand that the delay is due to the consultations between the French Government and the French officials from Algeria and Morocco, who are now in Paris, taking longer than was at first anticipated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 457.

Mr. Adam to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October* 13, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that the "Madrid Gazette" of to-day's date publishes, in the form of a Circular Royal Order addressed by the Minister of State to all the heads of Embassies and Missions abroad, for communication to the Governments to which they are accredited, the Spanish text of the Franco-Spanish Declaration in regard to Morocco, which was recently signed at Paris.

I inclose copies and translation of the Royal Order, which is dated the 11th instant.

I have, &c.
(For His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires),
(Signed) RONALD MACLEAY.

Inclosure in No. 457.

Extract from the "Madrid Gazette," October 13, 1904.

Circular Royal Order by the Ministry of State.

(Translation.)

AN understanding having been arrived at in regard to the rights and interests of Spain and France in connection with the Empire of Morocco, the two Governments have agreed to place the fact on record by means of the following Declaration:—

"The Government of His Majesty the King of Spain and the Government of the French Republic having arrived at an understanding in regard to the determining of the extension of their rights and the guarantee of their interests, which proceed, in the case of Spain, from her possessions on the coast of Morocco, and, in the case of France, from her Algerian possessions, and the Government of His Majesty the King of Spain having, in consequence thereof, given its adhesion to the Anglo-French Declaration of the 8th April, 1904, concerning Morocco and Egypt, which was communicated to it by the Government of the French Republic, declare that they remain the firm supporters of the integrity of the Empire of Morocco under the sovereignty of the Sultan. In faith whereof the Undersigned, his Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Spain and his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, being duly authorized thereto, have drawn up the present Declaration, to which they have affixed their seals.

"Done in duplicate in Paris, the 3rd October, 1904.
(Signed) "F. DE LEON CASTILLO.
"DELCASSÉ."

By Royal order I make this known to for your information, and in order that may communicate it to the Government to which you are accredited. God keep you, &c.

Madrid, 11th October, 1904.

(Signed) SAN PEDRO.

To Señor

No. 458.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 19, 1904.

MENEBHI. Although twenty-four days have elapsed since your Lordship's letter of the 13th September and my letter drafted by your Lordship were handed to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs and notwithstanding that a reply has been frequently pressed for by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez, up to the present no answer has been received, and there has been no relaxation in the strict embargo on the properties or the house in Fez in which his family reside.

In view of the prolonged delay which implies a want of courtesy towards His Majesty's Government, would your Lordship desire me to make a further communication to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, drawing his attention to this fact and insisting that no further delay be allowed to occur in the removal of embargo.

No. 459.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Mr. White.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1904.

SID MENEBHI. Your telegram No. 135 of to-day.

No further action should be taken until Sir A. Nicolson's return.

No. 460.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 141.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1904.

WITH reference to Mr. Adams' despatch No. 136 of the 13th instant, I have to inform your Excellency that the Spanish Ambassador called to-day and communicated to me a copy of the Franco-Spanish Declaration respecting Morocco, which was signed at Paris on the 3rd instant.

A translation of the Declaration is inclosed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Inclosure in No. 460.

Declaration respecting Morocco, signed at Paris, October 3, 1904.

(Translation.)

THE Government of His Majesty the King of Spain and the Government of the French Republic having agreed to fix the limits of their rights and the guarantee of their interests which accrue to Spain from her possessions on the coast of Morocco, and to France from her Algerian possessions, and the Government of His Majesty the King of Spain having in consequence given its adherence to the Anglo-French Declaration of the 8th April, 1904, respecting Morocco and Egypt, which was communicated to them by the Government of the French Republic, declare that they remain firmly attached to the integrity of the Empire of Morocco under the sovereignty of the Sultan. In faith of which the Undersigned, his Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of Spain, accredited to the President of the French Republic, and his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, duly authorized for this purpose, have drawn up this Declaration, to which they have affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate in Paris, on the 3rd October, 1904.

F. DE LEON Y CASTILLO.
DELCASSÉ.

Spanish Embassy, London, October 19, 1904.

No. 461.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 15, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 104 of the 12th August reporting the arrest of Hadj Hamed Jaii, I now have the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod informs me that Jaii was released from prison on the 28th September, two of his brothers and another Fez Moor having become sureties for him, but it is not known for what sum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 462.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 193.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 15, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 183 of the 1st October, reporting the reappointment of Kaïd Hamed-bel-Arbi-el-Mediouni to the Governorship of Dar-al-Baida, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches I have received from Mr. Acting Consul Michell informing me of disturbances which have arisen in the vicinity of that port.

It would appear that the attitude of Kaïd-el-Mediouni, on his return to his post, has been somewhat tactless, and is probably due to his desire to recoup himself as speedily as possible for his outlay in regaining possession of the Governorship, for which I hear he paid to the Court a sum of 70,000 dollars.

His predecessor, who, it is said, purchased the post for 100,000 dollars, held it but a short time, and doubtless the new Kaïd, knowing the uncertainties of all Government appointments at the present time, is anxious to lose no time in reimbursing himself for his outlay.

Thus far the matter is confined to the Governor and the tribes, and there is no sign of any feeling against Europeans. It will necessarily interfere with trade, but, as much of last season's harvest is still in the hands of the farmers, it will be to the interest of the tribes to settle this dispute speedily so that they may be able to carry their produce to Dar-al-Baida without fear of molestation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 462.

Acting Consul Michell to Mr. White.

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, October* 12, 1904.

I REGRET to have to report a serious development of the situation in the country round this place.

Since the return of the Kaïd Hadj Hamed-bel-Arby there has been discontent among the tribes on the east and north, the Zenata, Ziaida, and Ulad Zian. The Ziaida complained of the Kaïd having passed through their territory without giving them an opportunity of saluting him, and that he had insulted certain of their tribesmen in Dar-al-Baida.

The eastern faction, the Ulad Bu Aziz, resenting the rejection of their representative in the rejoicings on the Kaïd's return, and of their offerings of money as too small, joined the other tribes and sent messages to the western and southern Mediouna threatening to raid them if they did not rise too.

The latter, after much hesitation, yielded, and now the whole country is unanimous in demanding the withdrawal of the Kaïd. There have been at the same time the usual

complaints of extortion, but it seems to be mostly the unwise conduct of the Kaïd towards those who, he thought, had shown too much friendliness to Kaïd-el-Ayeshy that had lost him the support of his tribe.

There was considerable looting last week in the district between here and Fedala.

On Saturday, the 8th instant, a body of about 800 horsemen of the Zenata appeared outside the town. They were met by the Kaïd, and a conference was held. The Headmen eventually came into town with the Kaïd and were given food and money amounting to some 250 dollars, in return for promises of peace. There is to be a great general conference of the tribes to-day at a place about one and a-half hours' distance off.

Meantime, the supplies of charcoal, cattle, corn, and other produce, and one of the two sources of the water supply, were cut off from this town, and there was a general feeling of uneasiness. The Governor is naturally full of assurances of his ability to preserve order in the town, and there is no ill-feeling against the Europeans. On the contrary, the plan of the insurgents is said to be to induce the Consuls and merchants to put pressure on the Makhzen to get the Kaïd removed, but it is doubtful whether the Governor has sufficient means to check the plundering or rioting if the idle and disorderly elements in the town should be roused or a panic started.

There is certainly no pretence of Government authority in the district. The various tribes have organized their own commonwealths with Sheikhs and Elders to rule them, the Kaïd daring to do nothing but approve their actions and entertain and give them money at their demand.

In view of the dependence of the town on the supplies of food and water from outside, and the prejudice to trade, the unprecedented union of all the tribes against the Kaïd is regarded as unusually serious.

My French colleague informs me that he considers the presence of a ship of war in these waters just now could do no harm, but would serve to remind the populace that the Europeans are not dependent only on their good-will or cut off from the protection of their own Governments. He did not advocate this course on the occasion of the sacking of Settat last winter, but he thinks the present position requires it. He was reporting in this sense to his Legation.

M. Malpertuy is no alarmist, but I do not know what political plans he may have.

M. Fernau also urges me to advise the dispatch of a cruiser to Dar-al-Baida, but I see no cause for alarm, nor for the display of armed force, unless it be perhaps in the interests of British trade, and to reassure British protégés and agents in the country, and to secure the provisioning of the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. B. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 462.

Acting Consul Michell to Mr. White.

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, October* 14, 1904.

SINCE my last Report to you, No. 104 of the 12th instant, on the condition of this district, I am happy to note an improvement which, though perhaps temporary, may indicate that the Governor has some prospect of extricating himself from his difficulties.

The conference of the tribes at Teddart on the 12th instant led to a truce by which the Zenata have come freely into the town to market, and caravans have arrived safely from Rabat.

A reassuring feature is the refusal of the powerful Medacra tribe to allow its communications with Dar-al-Baida to be interfered with. The Medacra are largely dependent on their trade with Dar-al-Baida, and have means of exercising pressure on their neighbours the Ulad Zian.

This morning it is reported that a raid was made yesterday on a part of the Mediuna by Ulad Zian, but the Kaïd of the latter has written to Hadj Hamed-bel-Arby undertaking to satisfy the Mediuna for the cattle carried off.

On the other hand, the merchants here are still apprehensive, and their correspondents in the country are much discouraged. A small armed party of Makhaznia and servants of the Sultan who were proceeding to Marrakesh have been detained by the Governor on the ground of the insecurity of the roads, and have been lodged by him in the barracks of this town, presumably to serve him in case of need. He has also issued

arms to a considerable number of the better class townsmen, but few of the Mehalla encamped near here are fit for service yet, fever having reduced it severely.

I do not think the country will be quiet till the fall of rain makes ploughing operations possible, and even then the present prosperity and stored-up wealth of the peasantry would permit them to abandon work for fighting much more readily than in former times.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. B. MICHELL.

No. 463.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 194.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 15, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, in despatches dated the 5th, 7th, and 10th instant, reports that fighting was in progress at Wad Agoozool, Idauisern, near that town, between the partisans of two Kaïds, each of whom holds Sultan's letters of appointment as Governor of Idauisern. These hostilities have naturally interfered with the trade of Mogador with the interior, and on the request of Mr. Madden, the Acting Governor of Mogador sent letters to the contending Kaïds asking that trading caravans and travellers be allowed to pass without molestation, and a reply was received that they would be respected. On this assurance caravans numbering some hundreds of camels were dispatched from Mogador with merchandize, but they were stopped in the districts where the fighting was proceeding, and returned to Mogador.

Further representations were being made to the Acting Governor, as the trade of Mogador is practically suspended owing to the insecurity of the roads.

Mr. Vice-Consul Madden also reports that attacks by the tribes are imminent on the Kaïd of Shiedma and on the Kaïd of Tarudant and Howara, in Sus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 464.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 544. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 21, 1904.

M. DELCASSÉ told me the day before yesterday that he had had much pleasure in making the acquaintance of Sir Arthur Nicolson, who had discussed with him the question of the equitable settlement of El-Menebhi's claims on account of his property in Morocco.

His Excellency's language gave me to understand that he considered that these claims were by no means too moderate; and he implied that no doubt the claimant himself had managed to place some of his wealth in security elsewhere.

I said that I knew nothing of this, but that I was well aware that His Majesty's Government were anxious that El-Menebhi should be secured in the possession of his just rights.

M. Delcassé observed that he ought to think himself a lucky man if he were able to settle himself so agreeably in Egypt, with considerably more than a competence to live upon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 465.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 26, 1904.

A REPLY has been received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to our last note with regard to the affairs of Menebhi. A greater part of the arguments brought forward in previous communications are repeated in this reply, in which the Moorish Government practically reasserts its previous contention, but the hope is finally expressed that the help of His Majesty's Government will be forthcoming in bringing about a settlement of the matter.

I will report further on the matter when I have seen the French Minister and Menebhi.

No. 466.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 195.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 21, 1904.

THERE having been reports in the public press lately of serious reverses to the Sultan's forces in the neighbourhood of Ujdah, I took the opportunity of a visit from the French Minister to inquire what news he had received from that district.

M. Saint-René Taillandier replied that there had been great exaggeration in these reports, and that the situation of the Sultan's forces was not bad. The inhabitants, civil as well as military, of the Algerian district bordering the frontier, belong to the forward party, who desire to see France advance into Moorish territory and occupy Ujdah and other places; it is therefore to their interest to exaggerate every little incident, and to represent the country as in a dangerous state. One must therefore receive with great caution all news emanating from there.

M. Saint-René Taillandier informed me that parties of the loyal Moorish tribes of Angad and Mehaia had recently taken fright, apparently fearing attack by Bu Amama or the Pretender, and had crossed the frontier into Algeria, where they had been received in the customary manner and lands allotted to them, a pasturage toll being levied per head of cattle. Such incidents, M. Saint-René Taillandier added, are not infrequent, and are of no significance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 467.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 198.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 22, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to report that in a letter addressed by Hadj Mohammed Torres to the Diplomatic Body, his Excellency informed us that the Moorish Government had decided to withdraw the permission granted in a letter dated the 28th September, 1901, for the coastwise trade in wheat and barley, and had fixed a term of one month, to expire on the 9th November, as the limit.

In view of the fact that merchants at the coast ports hold considerable quantities of these grains, destined for Tangier and other ports, which it might be impossible for them to ship before that date, communications with most of the ports being very uncertain in the winter months, the Diplomatic Body pointed out to Hadj Mohammed Torres the inadequacy of the term fixed, and his Excellency has agreed to extend the period by two months. The prohibition will thus come into force about the 8th January, 1905.

It is to be regretted that the Government have taken this step, as it will cause considerable hardships to the poorer classes in those towns, like Tangier, which are

remote from the grain-growing districts, and recourse will have to be had to imported flour, which will enhance the cost of living to those classes which are least able to support it, and may cause some discontent.

I have, &c.
(Sigued) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 468.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 23, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 194 of the 15th October, reporting the disturbed condition of some tribes in the neighbourhood of Mogador, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that later despatches received from Mr. Vice-Consul Madden report no improvement in that district. An attempt was made by the son of Kaid Aissa-el-Abdy, the most influential Governor in Southern Morocco, to bring about a cessation of these disturbances, but it appears that his efforts in that direction have been unsuccessful. Six tribes are engaged in this dispute, and they have successfully stopped all trade between Mogador and the interior south of that town. Mr. Madden also reports that disturbances are expected to occur in the province of Shiedma, owing to the appointment of a Governor over a portion of that province who is unacceptable to the tribesmen, and who, it is said, intends to take possession of his post by force.

The British Vice-Consul at Laraiche reports that the district in the near neighbourhood of that town is in a disturbed state, and that a number of sheep and goats belonging to the townspeople, which were in an inclosure within 50 feet of the town wall, were raided and carried off by the tribesmen living on the other side of the river, and as they refused to return the animals at the request of the Governor of Laraiche, the latter prohibited the natives from crossing the river to come to the town, on which they are almost entirely dependent, whereupon they refused to allow the postal couriers to land on their side, and the mails will now have to make a long detour to a ford near Alcazar, thus losing some six hours, or else be brought by sea. The Governor of Laraiche has applied to Hadj Mohammed Torres for permission to use the Government tug at that port for the conveyance of the mails, while the disturbance lasts.

As regards Dar-al-Baida, I have received no further news from the Acting Consul there, and I trust that matters may have quieted down in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

No. 469.

Mr. White to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received October* 29.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 23, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter addressed by Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres to the Italian Minister, as doyen *ad interim* of the Diplomatic Corps, conveying a protest on the part of the Basha against foreign subjects for making excursions in this neighbourhood for sport or otherwise, without previously obtaining his permission, and disclaiming all responsibility for any harm that might befall any person going out without his permission.

The Italian Minister circulated this letter amongst the foreign Representatives, who were unanimously of opinion that Sid Torres should be informed that we held the Moorish Government responsible for the safety of foreign subjects, and could not admit the Basha's disclaimer of responsibility. It was further agreed that it would be a dangerous precedent to admit that the Basha's permission must be obtained before one could make an excursion beyond the immediate neighbourhood of the town. I beg leave to inclose herewith translation of the letter addressed by Signor Malmusi to Sid Terres in reply to his Excellency's letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 469.

Sid Torres to Signor Malmusi.

(Traduction.)
(Après les compliments d'usage.)

LE Gouverneur de la ville nous demande de protester contre les sujets et protégés des Puissances amies, pour l'entremise de leurs Représentants, parce qu'ils vont dans des endroits hors de la ville et ses environs pour chasser et autres choses sans permission, se jetant ainsi dans le péril et donnant lieu à des conflits entre les deux parties.

Personne ne doit se jeter dans le péril et ne doit sortir qu'avec un permis du Gouverneur, parce que les circonstances du moment sont connues.

Nous vous prions, donc, de présenter cette protestation aux honorables Représentants étrangers, pour qu'ils défendent à leurs ressortissants respectifs de sortir (de s'éloigner), et leur fassent savoir que quiconque sortira sans un permis du Gouverneur et lui arrivera quelque chose, il en sera responsable; aucune responsabilité n'atteindra le Makhzen.

(Compliments.)

(Signé) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 469.

Signor Malmusi to Sid Torres.

Tanger, le 19 *Octobre*, 1904.

J'AI reçu et communiqué au Corps Diplomatique la lettre que tu as bien voulu m'adresser le 1 Shaaban, 1322 (11 Octobre, 1904).

Le Gouverneur de la ville demande aux honorables Représentants de défendre à leurs ressortissants respectifs de sortir (de s'éloigner) de la ville, attendu l'insécurité du pays, et de leur faire savoir que quiconque sortira sans un permis du Gouverneur, s'il lui arrivera quelque accident, il en sera responsable; et aucune responsabilité, tu ajoutes, toi-même, n'atteindra au Makhzen.

Je suis chargé par mes collègues de répondre: Ils regrettent que les circonstances dictent, à l'avis du Makhzen, de semblables restrictions à la libre circulation des étrangers hors de la ville de Tanger et du territoire juridictionnel du Basha. En prenant note de sa communication, le Corps Diplomatique te prie de lui faire connaître, et te déclare—

1. Que les Représentants des Puissances ne peuvent dégager le Makhzen des responsabilités qui lui incombent quant à la sécurité des personnes et des biens de leurs nationaux résidant et voyageant dans ce pays: que sur ce point le Corps Diplomatique fait toutes ses réserves.

2. Que sous ces réserves, les Représentants des Puissances notifieront à leurs administrés respectifs les dispositions auxquelles s'est arrêté le Basha, mais dans le sens qu'une permission du Gouverneur ne saurait être requise pour voyager dans le pays, et que nos ressortissants doivent pouvoir faire des excursions et des promenades dans les voisinages immédiats de Tanger sans en donner avis préalable au Basha.

(Signé) G. MALMUSI.

No. 470.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 141.)
My Lord, *Madrid, October* 23, 1904.

INTERPELLATED in the Senate yesterday on the subject of the French and Spanish understanding respecting Morocco, Señor Rodriguez San Pedro answered that the subject being a delicate one, there was no question of departing from the reserve which circumstances imposed or of demanding of the Chamber any vote for the extension of Spanish influence in Morocco.

He could not either now make public the history of the late negotiations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 471.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 29, 1904.

AN urgent appeal reached me this morning at 4 A.M. from Laraiche as the town was being attacked by tribesmen. As being the safest place, the Europeans were collected in the Belgian Consulate. My French colleague, to whom I at once communicated the above, told me he would make arrangements with the Captains of the two French cruisers stationed here. In case the necessity for his services should arise I requested the Captain of His Majesty's ship "Diana" to have steam up, but I told M. Saint-René Taillandier that it would be better if the French ships alone went to Laraiche and not the "Diana."

No. 472.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received October 29.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, October* 29, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 138 of the 26th instant, Menebhi has sent me a description of the properties held by him. According to his estimate he possesses live-stock and properties outside Tangier to the value of about 147,000*l.*, and in this town 13,000*l.* worth. He declares that he acquired, by inheritance, about 40,000*l.* worth of his properties outside Tangier, and purchased the remainder legitimately. The accuracy of this statement can be proved only on examination of the title-deeds, which will be sent for from London.

I cannot hope to put forward with any success any proposal for an equitable settlement till these title-deeds are in my possession, so as to support Menebhi's estimate by further evidence.

No. 473.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, October* 29, 1904.

ATTACK on Laraiche.

I approve action taken, as reported in your telegram No. 140 of to-day.

No. 474.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 28, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith, a copy of a despatch addressed to Mr. White by His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Mogador, and which I venture to communicate to your Lordship as it represents a condition of affairs which is, according to all the information I have gathered since my return, prevailing throughout the country.

A high native official called on me yesterday, and stated that during his long experience he had never witnessed a similar condition of anarchy: and as the public revenues afforded slender and uncertain resources, and the tribesmen refused to send contingents of men to the Government, he did not see what measures could be adopted for re-establishing the authority of the Sultan and for setting into motion again the financial machinery of the Administration.

From what I gathered from a leading British merchant who was returning to Dar-al-Baida, the European Colonies in the several coast towns were uneasy in regard to their personal security, and were fearful lest any slight or unexpected incident should lead to serious consequences.

Captain Fournié, the French officer who is organizing the Tangier garrison and police, was good enough to pay me a visit; and though he was hopeful as to the future, he admitted that hitherto little progress had been made towards establishing an efficient police force. At the same time he doubted if any trouble were likely to arise in Tangier itself.

In regard to Tangier and its immediate neighbourhood, I should like to make further inquiries; but, in general, I am afraid that it is beyond question that the condition of the country is worse than when I left in the summer, and that the authority of the Government and the resources at their command have sadly diminished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 474.

Vice-Consul Madden to Mr. White.

Sir, *Mogador, October* 18, 1904.

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I regret to state that the situation in the country adjacent to this town is reported to be increasingly bad. Fighting has recommenced between the partisans of the rival Kaïds Meknaffi and Wold Giluli, resulting, it is said, favourably to the latter, but this is not confirmed.

The tribes of Idangert and Idanisern have sacrificed at Sidi Mogdul and at the custom-house here, praying for the appointment of separate Kaïds over them; they do not want either of the rival Kaïds to be their Kaïd. They are said to threaten certain reprisals, if Mogador does not help them, such as cutting the aqueduct. The tribesmen remain at Sidi Mogdul.

Yesterday morning much commotion was caused on the Saffi beach by two Shiedma men being chased to the Ducala Gate of Mogador by six armed horsemen, who fired at them. The pursued men succeeded in reaching Mogador: and the town gate was closed for a time. It appears that the Shiedma men were mistaken for messengers from Giluli bearing letters from the Makjen. This may lead to trouble between Shiedma and Meknaffa.

Meantime Giluli sent a lighter up by sea from Ait Amr with despatches and for provisions.

In view of the possibility of some of the rival tribesmen coming into the town for any reason and fighting being brought within the gates, I think there might be danger to Europeans, there being no efficient soldiery to keep order in case of a panic.

I therefore consulted with the French and Spanish colleagues on the subject, and we agreed that our Doyen, the Spanish Consul, should have an interview with the Acting Governor in our name. The Khalifa promised to have the gates watched to keep armed men out; and also to write to the contending Kaïds strictly enjoining them not to allow their armed men to come to the town. I fear, however, the country Kaïds have not much authority themselves.

In view, however, of the distance Mogador is from Tangier, I have thought it best to report to you fully, as although actual details may be uncertain, there is no doubt the country is in a very unsettled state.

I trust, however, that the rains which have commenced falling, will contribute in no small degree to inducing the tribesmen to revert to peaceful pursuits.

I am of opinion that it is not safe at present for Europeans to go far from town.

I have heard it said that cartridges are being obtained by the tribesmen with the connivance of some of the Europeans in this town; but there is no legal evidence to prove it against individuals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. M. MADDEN.

No. 475.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 202.)
My Lord, *Tangier, October* 28, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit translation of a note addressed to this Legation by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to the case of Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi, and which is a reply to the communication made by Mr. White as reported in his despatch No. 176 of the 23rd September.

I would submit that it would be of advantage to postpone sending any reply to this communication until I am in a position, with your Lordship's consent, to make some proposal for an amicable settlement, which the concluding paragraph of the Moorish note would seem to indicate is desired by the Moorish Government. Such a settlement must necessarily be based on a fair compensation being accorded to El Menebhi for the sequestration of those properties which are *bonâ fide* his possessions either by inheritance or by legitimate purchase.

The contention, I understand, of the Moorish Government is that the greater portion of these possessions has been illegitimately acquired, and that beyond the estates situated in Morocco El Menebhi is also possessed of a very large fortune invested in England. I gather that, with these views, the Moorish Government would consider that they were acting with great generosity if they allowed El Menebhi to realize his Tangier property alone, and if the remainder of his landed estates were confiscated.

El Menebhi, on the other hand, has furnished me with a list of his several properties, which, with the live-stock upon them, roughly amount to a value of 160,000*l.*, the property at Tangier being estimated at only about 13,000*l.* of this amount. El Menebhi asserts that he inherited estates to the value of some 40,000*l.*, and that the remainder was purchased out of agricultural profits and successful administration. He repudiated most warmly the imputation of his having acquired any wealth by any improper means.

It is, of course, impossible to state positively what credence should be attached to the statements on either side, but I should be disposed to admit that the exceptional position enjoyed by El Menebhi for a few years was not a negligible factor in the accumulation of considerable wealth within a short period, accompanied as it was by an exceedingly lavish personal expenditure.

As the Moorish Government decline to submit the question to judicial investigation, the matter cannot be thoroughly probed, and it seemed to me that the simplest method for bringing the case to a conclusion would be to make a proposal to the Moorish Government to give a round sum to El Menebhi in exchange for all the title-deeds in his possession. El Menebhi informed me that he would, for his part, accept any arrangement which I proposed.

It seemed to me that a fair solution would be to leave him one house in Tangier for the accommodation of his family; and that a sum of 80,000*l.* should be given for all the other properties.

I communicated this suggestion to the French Minister, but he expressed grave doubts whether the Moorish Government would accept it. We discussed the matter at considerable length, but I discovered that it would be useless to make any proposal to the Moorish Government until I was in a position to support it with documentary evidence; and, indeed, for my own personal guidance and satisfaction, I feel it necessary to have an inspection made of the title-deeds.

I have therefore requested El Menebhi to send for these documents without delay, and after I have made an examination of them I shall be in a better position to address your Lordship again.

I regret that some little delay will necessarily occur, but in the circumstances I fear that it is unavoidable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 475.

Cid Abdelkrim ben Sliman to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

WE received the letter giving the reply referred to you by his Excellency Lord Lansdowne, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, the respected, regarding the case of El Mehedy-el-Menebhi, stating that our statement to you, that the grounds on which the claim of El Menebhi's protection is based are not admitted is contrary to what was demonstrated to the exalted British Government, and that they therefore readily granted it—*i.e.*, the protection—in accordance with the desire of His Shereefian Majesty, and this, after they had delivered to His Majesty, through Kaïd Maclean, a Memorandum notifying the grant of the said protection; and that subsequently Kaïd Maclean sent information that His Shereefian Majesty had accepted it, and was grateful to the Government, and no objection was made, either verbally or in writing, to the exalted British Government or to its respected Minister, and that, therefore, the said Government cannot cancel this protection. And that for the Shereefian Government to claim its rights, and those of its Empire and subjects against El Menebhi, and his punishment therefor, necessitates the production of evidence to prove this against him, and a case brought against him in accordance with British law; and that you must request the removal of the embargo from the properties which he claims as his own so that he may sell them and depart with his family to Egypt or elsewhere.

I informed His Shereefian Majesty of the whole of the above, and His Majesty considered and reflected fully over it, and instructed me to reply to you on the subject of the belief of the British Government as to the validity of the foundation upon which the grant of this protection is based, that the object of the British Government in giving attention and consideration in accordance with the words which reached them is in the nature of friends who concern themselves in that which is for the good of their friends, and repel that which harms them, and they deserve gratitude and thanks therefor; but the message conveyed by the deliverer had no foundation in fact, as when Kaïd Maclean delivered the said Memorandum His Shereefian Majesty disapproved, at the time, of his bringing to the Shereefian Government that which he had not been instructed to bring. He replied excusing himself, saying that the purpose of the contents of the said Memorandum was to give notice of the intention of the Government to grant this protection if His Shereefian Majesty accepted it and consented to it, and, if not, then no. And this is what is indicated by the words of the Arabic translation which he brought with the Memorandum, and His Shereefian Majesty was contented with this disavowal, and did not write opposing it because Kaïd Maclean said that this Memorandum was secret. And His Shereefian Majesty could not show it to any one at the time, much less could he send an official letter on the subject of it, and if Kaïd Maclean has conveyed anything contrary to this, it is an error on his part.

In truth, in such important matters mere words are insufficient, even if spoken by those appointed by the Makhzen to speak on the subjects concerning their office, but on the contrary an official letter about it is necessary, without which nothing is valid in such cases. And how can it be imagined that any Government would request a grant of protection for any one of its subjects, much less for one who has dealt with the treasures of the Government and the tributes of its subjects, and has left these matters in a condition which is not ignored, and who still withholds them? Or how can the friendly British Government be unaware of that which the claim of this protection embraces, and of the doors of abuse which it opens against its friend the Moorish Government, as regards all its officials, and the great harm that would result thereby to its wealth and policy? The Shereefian Government cannot relinquish revealing its complaint and specifying the great harms which have overtaken it to the honoured British Government, which is renowned for its equity and justice to all people, and especially to friends.

As regards the suggestion made by you that evidence be established and the case conducted according to British law, His Shereefian Majesty has replied that it is not hidden that this request is based upon an admission of the said protection, and we have already stated sufficient on that point, and His Shereefian Majesty is not now prepared to follow this course or any similar one of all those which would bring about friction or a departure from the good relations existing with the honoured British Government, but it is requested that the said Government will give its kind consideration to the condition of this Shereefian

Government, as regard its wealth and policy, which state has been brought about by this man, and the sums he has squandered thereof and that which he still withholds—the greater portion of which is outside Morocco; and that it will also consider that which will be consequent upon the removal of the embargo from these properties, which are as nothing as compared to other matters, such as the disorder of the populace and the increase of talk among them about matters from which it is not known what might arise. And it is hoped that the respected British Government will give its assistance towards facilitating a just method of settling this affair, one which will comprise a protection of the dignity of His Shereefian Majesty in the eyes of his subjects and others, and also a regard for the honour of the honoured British Government; and that nothing will be done which would contain a wrong to either side, so that each may be satisfied with that which is suitable to it.

May you continue, &c.

(Signed) ABDELKRIM BEN SLIMAN.

10*th Shaaban*, 1322 (*October* 20, 1904).

No. 476.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 5.)

(No. 203.)

My Lord, *Tangier, October* 29, 1904.

AT an early hour this morning I received a special courier from Laraiche, who had travelled here in a British steamer, conveying an urgent message from the British Vice-Consul, reporting that the tribesmen of Sahel were firing on the town from the opposite bank of the river, that three of the inhabitants had already been wounded, and that the Europeans had collected in the Belgian Consular Agency as being the safest place in the town. Mr. Vice-Consul Forde requested that immediate assistance should be sent from Tangier. He added that an American citizen and two sailors from a German steamer had proceeded up the river on a shooting expedition, and had been fired upon by the tribesmen; but at the time of writing he was unable to say whether any of the party had been hit, as they had not returned to Laraiche.

I communicated at once with the French Minister, who informed me that he would consult with the Captains of the two French men-of-war lying in Tangier Bay. I told M. Saint-René Taillandier that as the Colony of Laraiche was evidently in considerable anxiety, it would be advisable to dispatch a man-of-war to that place, but that I would prefer that one of his vessels should proceed thither rather than His Majesty's ship "Diana."

M. Saint-René Taillandier came to see me later, and said that the French cruiser "Linois" would leave about midday, and would arrive at Laraiche in the afternoon. The French Vice-Consul, who happened to be in Tangier, would proceed in her, and he had given instructions to her Commandant to take any Europeans on board at Laraiche should the circumstances appear to justify the removal of Christians.

I have had no subsequent news from Laraiche, but I trust that the alarm of the inhabitants has subsided, as it seems unlikely that the tribesmen can seriously endanger their safety, as the assailants are on the opposite side of a broad river and the town is walled. However, it would not have been prudent to neglect the appeal for assistance.

It seems to me not improbable that the party who were proceeding on the shooting expedition may have been captured, and in the present condition of the country it is most imprudent on the part of Europeans to venture to any distance from the town gates.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 477.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 205.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 3, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 203 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the French cruiser "Linois" returned from Laraiche the day before yesterday. She landed the French Vice-Consul with some difficulty, as communication with the port was hampered by bad weather.

It appears that the Governor of Laraiche was able to drive off the attack of the Sahel tribesmen by employing some old guns which were mounted on the town walls, and as a few soldiers have arrived to reinforce the town garrison, there seems to be no immediate danger to the inhabitants. The neighbourhood of Laraiche will continue to be unsafe till some arrangement is made with the surrounding tribesmen.

The shooting party, to whom I alluded in my previous despatch, has returned to Laraiche uninjured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 478.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 585.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 14, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from the "Matin,"* evidently based on official information, which gives some hitherto unpublished particulars with regard to the means to be adopted by the French Government to establish French influence peaceably in Morocco.

Among the proposed measures are the following:—

A French doctor and teacher will be established in the principal towns along the Algerian border. A native "notable" will be designated in every tribe, whose duty it will be to see to the execution by the tribes of their obligations to one another. A Commission of Delimitation will be appointed to settle the Algerian frontier, and to arrange difficulties arising between the tribes on either side. Money will be furnished to the Sultan upon the security of the customs, or other security, to enable him to carry out public works in the interior of Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 479.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 153.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 16, 1904.

THE Sultan is favourably inclined to the settlement of the Menebhi question on the basis which I have proposed; that is, the payment to Menebhi of the value of half his property, with a house here for his family. The Sultan hopes that I will verify Menebhi's statements by an examination of his title-deeds, as His Majesty considers it possible that the value of his property has been overestimated.

The prospects of a settlement are more favourable, as, although the examination of title-deeds may take some time, the agreement of the Sultan and his Government to the principle is something gained. His Majesty is anxious that the case should be brought to a close, and declares his readiness to meet me in every way.

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* Not printed.

No. 480.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 21.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 9, 1904.

SINCE my return to Tangier I have had some conversation with the French Minister in regard to his approaching Mission to Fez, and as to the questions which he proposes to discuss with the Moorish Government.

M. Saint-René Taillandier, I could perceive, does not conceal from himself the difficulties which he will have to encounter, nor does he minimize the magnitude of the task which he has to undertake. He is fully alive to the fact that the authority of the Sultan outside the walls of the capital, and beyond the gates of the coast towns, is practically non-existent, and that the tribes throughout the country are in a condition of peaceful anarchy. So long as the Government do not seek to interfere with them, the tribes remain quiescent, apart from occasional cattle-lifting and the settlement of a few intertribal feuds. The Pretender has shown of late signs of increasing activity, and is giving cause for anxiety to the harassed Government garrison at Oujdah, and in conjunction with the old mosstrooper Bu Amama has maintained a certain agitation along the Algerian frontier.

The Moorish Government have but a few ill-paid and undisciplined troops at their disposal, and their efforts to obtain recruits from the provinces have met with but scant response. The Moorish Treasury has been nearly depleted, and the proceeds of the last loan has been almost expended, or, it would be more accurate to say, squandered, and the first measure to be taken will be to supply the Moorish Exchequer with some additional funds. I understand from my French colleague that any fresh contribution of funds will not take the form of a simple loan, to be freely disposed of by the Moorish officials according to their own pleasure, but will be placed under some control, and devoted to the more pressing needs. He said that as yet he had not decided in what form or under what control any financial assistance would be afforded, but that he would be accompanied on his Mission by a competent financial adviser, M. Regnault, who would inquire closely into the financial administration of the Government. It would be necessary, my French colleague remarked, to increase the powers of the French Agents at the several custom-houses at the ports. At present they merely received daily 60 per cent. of the Customs receipts, but it would be necessary that they should be furnished with wider powers so as to enable them to exercise an efficient control, and thereby, he hoped, increase the Customs revenues.

Furthermore, it was clear that a recurrence must be had to internal taxation, and herein lay, perhaps, one of the chief difficulties. The tentative efforts which the Moorish Government had recently made to levy some contributions in a few districts, which had hitherto been well-disposed to the Sultan, had been quite unsuccessful, and it was, my French colleague found, abundantly evident that the people generally were opposed to the payment of any Government taxes. In order to overcome this opposition coercitive measures would be required, and to enforce these an armed force would have to be organized. Efficient police forces would also have to be provided for Tangier and some of the coast towns, and other measures undertaken for the establishment of public order and security. He trusted that he would be able to persuade the Sultan and the Moorish Government to give their co-operation in satisfying these most urgent requirements, and to afford him all possible assistance.

The above is but a summary of several conversations, and necessarily gives but an outline of some of the most essential questions which await an immediate solution. I did not express to my French colleague any opinion, but I am afraid that he will not find the co-operation of the Sultan very hearty, or, indeed, in present circumstances, very effective; and I am of opinion that the organization of an armed force will be a lengthy and uphill task, and that the collection of internal revenue will be relegated to a somewhat distant future. Without entering into great detail, and occupying too much of your Lordship's time, it would be difficult to explain clearly and fully the complexities of the present situation, and the many obstacles which are in the way of the establishment of any orderly and authoritative Administration. There are no competent and honest native elements who could be of any real assistance, and there is a deep-seated determination in the minds of the overwhelming majority of the country not to submit patiently to any foreign control or interference. I may be in error as to my forecast, but I doubt whether any real progress can be made in Morocco

by simply pacific means, or by pressure applied through a weak and, at heart, ill-disposed native Government, and it seems to me probable that recourse must eventually be had to armed intervention, however distasteful this may be to the rulers and people of France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 481.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 209.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 11, 1904.*

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 137 of the 3rd August, I have the honour to state that the Moorish official, who has been delegated by the Sultan to discuss with the foreign Representatives the question of increasing the import and export duties, arrived here a few days ago, and has visited the several Legations.

He wishes to meet the Diplomatic Body *in corpore*, and to open negotiations on the subject without delay.

vnly two of the Representatives, the Russian and the United States, have recei ed instructions from their Governments to discuss the question, and a meeting withr the Moorish Delegate would, therefore, seem to be premature. I told the Moo ish Delegate that I was without any instructions, and that it appeared to me thatbefore the question would be ripe for discussion, assuming for the moment that the several Governments would be disposed to treat of the matter, it would be necessary to study many details and to collect much information. It was manifestly impossible to examine a question of such importance without being in possession of ample information, and the collection of the necessary data would occupy some time.

My French colleague, and also I understand most of the other Representatives, have spoken in much the same sense, and M. Saint-René Taillandier agrees with me that it would be undesirable to open any négotiations on the subject at this moment. I would suggest that, in any case, the question should not be seriously considered until after M. Saint-René Taillandier has concluded his mission to Fez, as he hopes, when at the capital, to induce the Moorish Government to introduce several reforms in the financial administration which may obviate the necessity of seeking to augment the State revenues by increasing the duties on import and export.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 482.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 12, 1904.*

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 198 of the 22nd ultimo, in regard to the intention of the Moorish Government to prohibit the coastwise trade in wheat and barley, I have the honour to report that I have discussed the matter with my colleagues, and have suggested to them that it would be well to make an effort to induce the Moorish Government to reconsider their decision to prohibit a trade which is of such general benefit. My colleagues were good enough to agree to my suggestion, and at their request I drew up a note, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy, and which has been sent to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting the Moorish Government not to disturb a system which has been so beneficial, but to continue to allow the free coastwise trade in wheat and barley. The note was signed, on behalf of the Diplomatic Body, by the Italian Minister, who is acting as doyen.

Apart from the question of the advantages which the public derive from the coasting trade, it is, I think, desirable to secure the establishment of the coasting trade on a permanent basis. The German Chargé d'Affaires has spoken to me with some anxiety lest at a later date the Moorish Government should be induced to abolish all coastwise trade except in vessels under the Moorish flag, which would probably result in the trade falling exclusively into French hands, who would establish the necessary service under

Moorish colours. I told him that it seemed to me that Article 2 of the Anglo-French Agreement safeguarded British interests in any case in the coastwise trade; but he considered that this guarantee would not be effective if the Moorish Government, who were not a party to the Agreement, withdrew a concession which they had accorded in 1901. He thought that if we now acquiesced without any protest in the prohibition of the coasting trade in some articles, the restrictive measure might be extended to all merchandize; and he was therefore glad to observe that I had raised the question and had procured the assent of the other Representatives to the communication which had been addressed to the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 482.

Note communicated to Abdelkrim-ben-Sliman.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, November 9, 1904.*

I RECENTLY addressed a communication to Hadj Mohammed Torres requesting that a delay of ninety days should be accorded before the measure prohibiting the coastwise trade in wheat and barley was put into force; and I now desire to lay before your Excellency, in the name of the Diplomatic Body, certain observations on this important question which we consider merit the most serious consideration.

In 1901 His Majesty the Sultan was pleased to grant the free coastwise trade in wheat and other grains on the same footing as other merchandize, and the only reservation which was made at the time referred to certain formalities which had to be fulfilled in the event of the export of corn to foreign countries being forbidden. The Sultan therefore considered, and we think with reason, that the free coastwise trade had been granted without any time limit, and that the intention of His Majesty the Sultan was to establish that trade on a permanent footing. The fact that it was generally accepted that the coastwise trade was to be a permanent measure led to the extension of the area of cultivation, and enabled the population to live without the anxiety of being exposed to distress and scarcity while serious and important interests were engaged in a trade which was so beneficial and full of promise for the future.

The permission to carry on the coastwise trade in wheat and grain was, we submit, a wise measure. Formerly it frequently occurred that districts ill cultivated and but scantily favoured by nature suffered from scarcity, and were only able to procure the necessaries of life with great difficulty and at great expense, while at the same time other more favoured and richer districts had a large surplus of agricultural produce which was completely wasted owing to the impossibility of carrying it to the place where it was most needed. Such a condition of affairs was from every point of view most unfortunate, and urgently demanded a remedy. This remedy, to the great joy of the inhabitants, was found in the abolition of the trammels which had led to so much misery. It would therefore, in our opinion, be a real misfortune if a return were made to the old system which was the cause of so many evils and of so much anxiety. In the interest not only of our own nationals, but in that of all the inhabitants of this Empire, we would earnestly urge the Moorish Government not to change the present system, but to allow the free coastwise trade in wheat and other grains to continue. Since the introduction of that system great benefits have accrued to all classes, and we have the confident hope that the Moorish Government do not desire to re-establish a condition of things which, in the general interest, should be abolished for ever.

Peace, &c.

No. 483.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 120.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 23, 1904.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 209 of the 11th instant, reporting the arrival at Tangier of the Moorish official delegated by the Sultan to discuss with the foreign Representatives the question of increasing the import and export duties of Morocco.

I concur in the opinion expressed in the concluding part of your despatch, that it will be best to defer the consideration of this matter till after the return of M. Saint-René Taillandier from his mission to Fez.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 484.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 122.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 23, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 210 of the 12th instant, in regard to the intention of the Moorish Government to prohibit the coastwise trade in wheat and barley.

I approve your action in the matter, and the terms of the note on the subject addressed to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs by the Diplomatic Body at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 485.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 24.)

(No. 154.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 24, 1904.

THE tribes in this neighbourhood nearly succeeded in capturing Kaïd Maclean on his way down from Fez. I understand that the tribes were persuaded to abandon this project by the British Consular Agent at Alcazar, to whom the Kaïd owes his escape. Maclean is now at Arzila, about 25 miles from Tangier, and will come on here by steamer, as the land route is unsafe.

No. 486.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 26.)

(No. 155.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 26, 1904.

IT is reported here that Arzila has been approached by mountain tribes, for the purpose of hindering the embarkation of Kaïd Maclean, as they are bent on his capture.

I have accepted the offer of the French Minister to send a French cruiser to Arzila to assist in getting the Kaïd away, and I hope that he will be got off in safety. The sea is calm.

No. 487.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 156.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November* 27, 1904.

KAID MACLEAN was able to embark on a steamer, and reached here late last night. There was consequently no need for the services of the French cruiser.

No. 488.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 211.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 15, 1904.

I HAVE received several letters from the coast towns and from Morocco City which give, generally, fairly reassuring news as to the quietude of the country, owing to the people having now commenced ploughing operations in the southern districts. At the same time, the roads are not safe for travellers and postal couriers, the latter being continually robbed and ill-treated. The reports from some parts mention the increasing unpopularity of the Sultan, and the consequent absence of Government authority.

A correspondent at Morocco City, who has much experience of this country, reports that during a visit he paid to an important Shereef from Tafilelt, the latter spoke openly against the Sultan, and expressed his conviction that the French would be unable to re-establish His Majesty's authority, and that a change in the occupancy of the throne would be inevitable. The same correspondent considers that the people are likely to remain comparatively quiescent, but that a conflagration would ensue if the tribes observed any attempt to establish a French predominance, or, indeed, any active foreign intervention in their internal affairs.

The personal unpopularity of the Sultan is, I know, a subject which seriously preoccupies my French colleague, as, were matters otherwise and it were possible to gain the sympathetic co-operation of the Sultan in questions of reform, there might be some hope of gradually winning over the more settled portions of the country. At the same time, I have no ground whatever for surmising that there is any inclination on the part of the French authorities to effect any dynastic change, and I believe that they are desirous of making the best of the not very satisfactory materials which are at their disposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 489.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 212.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 17, 1904.

IT seems to me advisable, before making any definite proposals to the Moorish Government for an amicable settlement of the affairs of Ci Mehedi-el-Menebhi, to endeavour to ascertain privately whether the Sultan and his Ministers would be disposed to favourably entertain an arrangement by which El Menebhi could receive a round sum in exchange for all his properties in Morocco, the title-deeds of which he should hand over to the Moorish Government. I therefore requested Sir H. Maclean and Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod to mention the matter privately to the Sultan and to the Minister for Foreign Affairs respectively, and to explain that the purpose of my proposal was to terminate as speedily as possible a vexatious question, and to obtain a settlement which would be fairly equitable to both parties. I told the two above-named gentlemen to point out that my proposal would in no wise lessen the position of the Moorish Government in the eyes of the public, as, though I considered the imposition of an embargo on El Menebhi's properties was a most ill-advised measure, still I understood that they hesitated to remove it and thus avow publicly the error they had committed. I had no desire whatever to humiliate them; and in accepting my proposal, the public would conclude that the properties had reverted to the Moorish Government, who, out of generosity, had granted a certain sum to El Menebhi. The prestige of the Government would, therefore, be fully safeguarded. I also informed Sir H. Maclean and Mr. Macleod that if they found that my proposal was accepted in principle, and if inquiry were made of them as to details, they could state the sum at which El Menebhi valued his properties, and intimate that I considered that half of the value would be a fair compensation.

Both Sir H. Maclean and Mr. Macleod found the Sultan and the Minister for Foreign Affairs well disposed to a settlement on a basis I had suggested, and His Majesty inquired of Sir H. Maclean what was the amount of the sum at which I proposed that the Maghzen

should acquire the title-deeds. Sir H. Maclean gave the details with which I had supplied him; but both the Sultan and the Foreign Minister considered that the estimate of El Menebhi as to the value of his properties was too high; and they have requested me to have the title-deeds examined and the purchase prices and other details noted down, so that the Moorish Government may see clearly ahead of them. They do not wish to pay a sum down and then find that the properties which they receive are of little value. In short, they wish to assure themselves that the transaction would be a businesslike and profitable one.

The above requests seem to me reasonable and fair, and as the title-deeds have now reached the Legation, I will have them inspected and the necessary details noted down.

I have informed my French colleague of the position of the question and of the course which I propose to pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 490.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 157.)
Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 29, 1904.*

I HAVE received a letter from Ci Mehedi el Menebhi in which he abandons all claim to his properties which are under an embargo, as he says he is unwilling to cause trouble between the two Governments. He expresses his loyalty to the Sultan, and cedes to His Majesty the property which has been seized. I have informed Menebhi that I approve of his action, and am forwarding his letter to the Sultan together with one from myself, in which I express my conviction that His Majesty will approve and appreciate his former Minister's conduct. I have also suggested that Menebhi should retain possession of his properties in Tangier, and that his valuables and personal effects in his houses at Fez and Morocco City should be left at his disposal. I requested His Majesty to send me his approval of Menebhi's offer in writing, as soon as possible, and on receipt of this I propose to communicate officially on the subject with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I would not touch on the question of Menebhi going to Egypt, but if his departure from this country is requested by the Moorish Government, it would be fair to ask for a sum of money, about 12,000*l.* or 14,000*l.*, to defray the expenses of his journey and establish him in a foreign country.

The French Minister has been confidentially informed of the above.

No. 491.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, November 29, 1904.*

SID MENEBHI.

Your telegram No. 157 of the 28th instant.

Your communication to the Sultan is approved.

I request that you will inform Menebhi that his action has my approval.

No. 492.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 158.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, November 30, 1904.*

MY immediately preceding telegram.

The special courier who was on his way to Fez with my letter to the Sultan, and also Menebhi's letter, has been waylaid and the letters stolen. The letters were written in Arabic and will be read; the incident is consequently unfortunate.

A special courier was engaged as being safer for the purpose, robbery of the ordinary postal couriers having occurred frequently of late. The theft is annoying, but I am sending duplicates.

No. 493.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 2.)

(No. 159.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 2, 1904.*

A BAND of mountaineers made an attack on the house of Mr. Harris last night, and attempted to capture him. The guards were overpowered, one being dangerously wounded, but the assailants retired on the arrival of reinforcements from posts in the neighbourhood. The tribe to which the mountaineers belong has not yet been ascertained.

No. 494.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

(No. 213.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November 24, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Dar-al-Baida, reporting on the disturbed condition of affairs at Mazagan. As ploughing operations are now in progress, the other southern districts appear to be more tranquil for the moment.

I regret to say that lawlessness still prevails in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier, and that the roads are unsafe.

Kaïd Sir H. Maclean, although travelling with a considerable escort, found that it would be unsafe to take the direct road from Alcazar to Tangier, as Mr. Carleton, the British Consular Agent at the former place, informed him that a number of the Beni Aros tribe were lying in wait to lay hands on him.

Sir H. Maclean, in company with Mr. Carleton, therefore turned off the direct road and made for Arzila, a small town on the coast about 25 miles from Tangier. Mr. Carleton was able to procure a safe passage through the Khlot district, but on arriving at the walls of Arzila the party was received with volleys of musketry from the townspeople, who were under the impression that Sir H. Maclean was the Moorish official who had been sent by the Sultan to inquire into their recent murder of their Governor. The mistake was rectified, and Sir H. Maclean's party encamped outside the walls. The next morning the camp was surrounded by a large number of the Sahel tribe, who informed Mr. Carleton that they would do him personally no harm, but that they intended to seize Sir H. Maclean and hold him prisoner while they communicated with the adjoining mountain tribes. Mr. Carleton, with great difficulty, and with some expenditure of money, eventually induced them to abandon this project. A scuffle nearly ensued during the discussion, as one of the Sahel people stabbed a soldier of Sir H. Maclean, and made off with his rifle. Mr. Carleton, however, contrived to keep the soldier's comrades quiet, and the delinquent was not pursued.

Sir H. Maclean is now waiting at Arzila for a steamer to fetch him to Tangier, as it is probable that it would be dangerous for him to proceed by land. Rough weather has, unfortunately, hitherto prevented any embarcation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 494.

Acting Consul Michell to Sir A. Nicolson.

Sir, *Dar-al-Baida, November 20, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that news from Mazagan indicates a disquieting development of the lawlessness in that neighbourhood.

Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Spinney reports to me under date of yesterday:—

"Affairs are getting worse round Mazagan. All Moors living ten minutes' walk from the town are bringing their belongings in. On Thursday two of the priests were out for a walk, and when opposite my garden had two shots fired at them by mounted Arabs who were there. The bullets passed very close, but they were not hit. We still go to the garden, and the south beach is all right, but it is not safe on the other roads. I believe if our old Governor was alive he would have settled this trouble."

The son of the late Governor of Mazagan left there for Fez on the 12th instant, leaving the "Kaïd-et-Tabjia" in charge.

There was a meeting on the 17th instant between the Ulad Furz and the Ulad-ben-Aziz tribes to endeavour to settle their disputes amicably, but the conference failed, and things are now much more serious, as the Ownat are fighting for the Ulad Furz and the Ulad-bu-Zerara have joined the Ulad-bu-Aziz. One of the principal Moors of Mazagan has had his farms in Ulad Furz pillaged, and it is reported that his son is a prisoner. No produce is coming into the Mazagan market. From Saffi I hear that all is quiet since the departure of Kaïd Ais-a-ben-Omar. In Shiedma the tribes have made peace through the intervention of Sidi Abdallah-del-Hafid, and fighting has ceased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. B. MICHELL.

No. 495.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 214.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 25, 1904.

WITH reference to Mr. White's despatch No. 125 of the 25th July last, I regret to have to report that the monetary system in this country is again becoming seriously disturbed by the rapid rise in the exchange between the Moorish or Hassani silver coins and the Spanish dollar. At present the exchange is at 22 per cent. in favour of Spanish silver, and I am informed that there is no reason why this rate should not rise higher. The native pays for goods imported in Hassani silver, and most of the transactions are calculated on a basis of 10 per cent. rate of exchange. It is clear, therefore, that a rapid rise in this rate will seriously affect the interests of merchants, and the same difficulties and losses will occur to which I referred in previous despatches during the late monetary crisis.

There are some 4,500,000 dollars (about 660,000*l.*) of Moorish silver coinage to be delivered, and the Moorish Government are pressing the contractors to hasten deliveries. The Moorish Government, as I have informed your Lordship on previous occasions, make a very large profit on the coinage, and they are also in constant need of Hassani coinage for their own purposes, and also for the maintenance of the forces at Oujdah, which absorbs alone 40,000 dollars (or about 6,500*l.*) weekly.

The export trade, which usually improves the rate of exchange between the native and Spanish silver, will not be in full swing for some months, and so little relief will be found in that direction. Moreover, there are fears that the export trade will suffer, owing to the insecurity and unrest in the country and to other circumstances. On the other hand, I am told that the import trade is good, as the tribes are well supplied with money, not having paid any taxes for some years.

I asked one of the French Agents at the Customs whether the 60 per cent. they collected from the customs revenues fully covered the service of the loan, and he replied in the affirmative; and it is probable that between 40 and 50 per cent. of the customs revenues will suffice to pay the interest on the loan. Still, the customs revenues will be the only resources left to the Government after the proceeds of the loan have all been received in February next, and after the profits derived from the coinage have ceased. Fifty per cent. of the customs revenues, or, at a generous estimate, 200,000*l.*, is manifestly insufficient to supply the needs of the most prudent and economical Administration, without taking into consideration the liabilities already incurred, which amount, I gather on good authority, to one French firm alone to a sum of 260,000*l.* The raising of a fresh loan would entirely absorb all the customs revenues, and would but postpone for a short time the financial crisis. My French colleague, I know, anticipates that, with stricter control and supervision, the customs revenues can be increased. This may be readily admitted, but the extent of the improvement cannot, in the nature of things, be of much importance.

The collection of internal taxation is not likely to be in force for some time to come, and in the meantime funds must be found from somewhere. If the project of a fresh loan is not favourably viewed—and I believe that it is not—it is possible that the French Government may eventually have to furnish grants in aid, a measure which I should think would not be acceptable to the French public.

The financial position is, while the most urgent, perhaps one of the most perplexing and difficult of the problems the French Minister has to solve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 496.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 3.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 26, 1904.

THE news which has been recently received from the Algerian frontier is to the effect that the Pretender had a substantial success over the Government troops and the tribes who were loyal to the Sultan, and has now advanced to a short distance from Oojdah, where the garrison is said to be in some difficulties. As the result of the advantage which he gained over the Sultan's forces, the important tribe of the Beni Snassen has joined his cause, while he has inflicted, and has had paid to him, heavy fines on those tribes who were in arms against him.

Although the prospects of the Pretender have again revived, I do not think that great importance need be attached to recent events so far as any immediate danger to the Sultan's position at Fez is concerned. Constant fluctuations in the fortunes of the two opposing forces will probably continue, as has been the case since the rebellion first assumed any proportions, and tribes will shift their allegiance to and fro as the star of one or the other party is for the moment in the ascendent.

Ci Menebhi told me this morning that, from the reports which he had received, the Pretender's adherents were well supplied with rifles, clothing, and ammunition, a large portion of which they received though the channel of a M. Delbrel, a French adventurer, who was expelled from Algeria, and who for some time past has been active in supplying the needs of the Pretender and in giving him advice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 497.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *Tangier, November* 28, 1904.

SID MEHEDI-EL-MENEBHI called on me this morning and handed to me a letter of which I have the honour to inclose a translation. El Menebhi explained to me that he was anxious to do what lay in his power to terminate the difficulty which had arisen in connection with his case, and that he considered that by abandoning all claim to the properties which had been embargoed he would greatly facilitate a solution. He hoped that I would communicate his letter to the Sultan, and if I could add a few words from myself he would be grateful.

I told El Menebhi that, in my opinion, he had acted wisely and honourably in the course he had adopted, and that I would transmit his communication direct to the Sultan, and would also write myself to His Majesty. I beg leave to transmit copy of the letter which I have addressed to the Sultan on the subject. I observed to El Menebhi that, after examining his title-deeds, I foresaw that it would be a long time before I could succeed in inducing the Moorish Government to come to terms in regard to his various properties. Their views and his, which latter I felt bound to defend so far as I properly could, were so divergent that I was afraid months might elapse before an agreement was reached. The solution, on the other hand, which his letter offered was creditable to himself, and likely to lead to a speedy termination of the difficulty.

I propose when I receive a reply from the Sultan, which I trust will be in a favourable sense, to address an official communication to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating that I was prepared, on behalf of El Menebhi and with his concurrence, to abandon any claim in respect to the properties which had been embargoed; but that the properties situated at Tangier must he left to him in undisputed ownership, and that he be permitted to remove to Tangier from his houses at Fez and Morocco city all his personal effects and valuables.

I would propose to say nothing as to the question of the departure of El Menebhi from Morocco to Egypt or elsewhere. This point has been made conditional on the embargo being raised and on El Menebhi being allowed to realize all his properties. As these conditions necessarily fall through, I think it would be more advisable, and indeed fairer to El Menebhi, to allow any revival of that point to come from the Moorish Government. Should they express a desire that El Menebhi should leave the country, I propose to agree to it on condition that a liberal sum should be granted for his travelling expenses and for his establishment in a strange land. In view of the action El Menebhi has taken, and the relatively small value of his Tangier properties, I think that a sum of from 12,000*l.* to 14,000*l.* would not be excessive.

I communicated the above to my French colleague who appeared quite satisfied with it, though he expressed the hope that El Menebhi would not remain in Morocco, as his presence might be a cause of some inconvenience both to the British and French Legations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 497.

El Menebhi to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

I BEG you will excuse me. It appears to my limited understanding that I should write to you this letter for you to inform His Shereefian Majesty of its contents, that I, from my sincere friendship towards His Shereefian Majesty (compliments) wish him to do as he pleases with my property on which he has laid hand. If he desires them, he has more right to them than I, and if he wishes to leave me some for the orphans and children to live on, he is most generous and that he shall dismiss all feeling against me is my desire and that amity exist between us. He knows me better than any one else, and I will leave solid increasing friendship between the exalted (British) Government and His Shereefian Majesty and I will not leave disputes between them. I will not be the cause of that, as he, God exalt Him, He was the cause of the friendship of and my protection (connection) with the exalted British Government. I, therefore, would like you to please inform His Shereefian Majesty of this and He will decide, God exalt Him, and settle in this matter as he pleases. I am of those who are thankful for his bounty; that God may preserve him in his life to us is my desire. Friendship and peace.

12 *Ramadan* 1322 (20*th November*, 1904).

(Signed) MEHEDI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 497.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Sultan of Morocco.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

Tangier, November 28, 1904.

I BEG leave to transmit to your Majesty a private letter addressed to me by Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, which I should be glad if your Majesty would kindly read. I am sure that your Majesty will fully appreciate the terms of the letter, and will see that Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi is anxious to do what is agreeable to your Majesty as is right in the heart of a faithful servant. If your Majesty approves of what El Menebhi has written, and I have no doubt it will meet with your Majesty's approval, I should be grateful if your Majesty would return the letter to me and would graciously send me a written word to say that your Majesty views with favour what Sid Mehedi-el-

Menebhi has written. When I receive this acknowledgment from your Majesty I would write officially to Ben Sliman acquainting him that no further question will be raised as to the properties on which an embargo has been placed, but that Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi should retain the properties he has at Tangier and that he should be allowed to bring to Tangier his furniture and other personal effects in his houses at Fez and Marrakesh. Before writing to Ben Sliman, I wished to assure myself that your Majesty approved of the arrangement, and that an immediate solution could be found to the question. I very much regret that I have to leave Morocco without bidding farewell to your Majesty, and without an opportunity of saying personally how earnestly I hope that your Majesty will continue in good health, and that your happiness and prosperity will continue and increase. I shall always retain a grateful recollection of the kindness I have always received at your Majesty's hands.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 498.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 5.)

(No. 628.)
My Lord,

Paris, December 3, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship an article from the "Temps,"* by Georges Villiers, laying down the principles on which, in the writer's opinion, which generally reflects that of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French policy of "pacific penetration" should be carried out in Morocco, if success is to be achieved.

A preliminary condition of any progress towards the realization of this policy is declared to be a complete understanding between the Minister at Tangier and the Governor-General at Algiers. Efforts in this direction have not been entirely successful in the past, and the article lets out the secret that the conferences held in Paris a few weeks ago between the authorities representing France respectively in Algeria and Morocco, and which were reported by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 529 of the 7th October, were conducted in a very formal manner and without disclosing any sincere desire to work in harmony towards the desired end.

In such recent incidents as to the occupation of Ras-el-Ain on the Morocco side of the frontier, and the dispatch of an agent to settle matters at Figuig, M. Jonnart, the Governor-General of Algeria, would appear to have acted without previous consultation with M. Saint-René Taillandier, who would probably have suggested a different course.

The article goes on to point out that penetration by means of French schools and counting-houses is hardly likely to prove effectual until some degree of order has been restored. To that end it advocates the formation of a strong body of Algerian officers to take in hand and thoroughly organize the armed forces of Morocco. It would very likely not be necessary to use the arm which would thus be placed at the Sultan's disposal. But there must be a force "in being" to overawe the tribes, and such a force can only be constituted by means of elements drawn from Algeria.

M. Villiers believes that the Sultan will not be unduly alarmed by this programme, which it will be M. Saint-René Taillandier's duty to lay before him on reaching Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 499.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 218.)
My Lord,

Tangier, December 2, 1904.

LAST night, about 10 P.M., I received a telephonic message from Mr. Harris that his house was being attacked by some mountaineers, and requesting that assistance should be sent to him.

* Not printed.

I dispatched Mr. Bristow, the Assistant Interpreter of the Legation, to the Governor of the town, who sent out some mounted and foot soldiers, who arrived at Mr. Harris' house about midnight. I also sent a letter to the French Minister by Mr. Irwin, Interpreter of the Legation, and asked if he could signal to the French cruiser in the bay to turn her search-lights on Mr. Harris' house, so as to alarm the mountaineers and to show them that their proceedings were known. My French colleague, however, had no means of making nocturnal signals, and the night was too dark and stormy for a small boat to carry a message to the cruiser.

About 11 P.M. Mr. Harris telephoned to say that he had now collected some twenty-five soldiers in his house, and that he felt safe for the night, and that all danger would be past as soon as the Governor's contingent arrived.

This morning Mr. Harris reported to me that he was going to bed about 10 P.M. when he heard some slight noise in the verandah of his house, where his ten guards remain during the night. He called out to them, but, receiving no answer, he descended to the drawing-room and opened the shutters. He saw the body of a soldier lying in the verandah in a pool of blood, and at the same time eight or ten men rushed at the open window from the shelter of a tree near by; Mr. Harris contrived to close the window and shutters before the men could effect an entrance.

He then collected his servants, extinguished all lights, and posted himself in an upper room, after having distributed rifles to his men, and awaited events. He heard the sound of firing in his garden and in the neighbourhood, and was joined shortly afterwards by some twenty-five soldiers, who had been on guard in the vicinity. The mountaineers made another attack on the house, but apparently contented themselves with firing some fifty or sixty shots, and subsequently dispersed.

The soldiers, who had been on guard in the verandah, stated that they were taking tea, when they were suddenly seized by several mountaineers, who placed knives at their throats, and threatened they would kill them if they made the slightest noise, but that if they remained quiet no injury would be done to them, as their object was simply to carry off the "Christian." One of the soldiers endeavoured to wrench himself free, but was badly stabbed, and his condition is serious.

The guards in the vicinity were also attacked at the same time as the attempt was made on Mr. Harris' house, but, having driven off their assailants, they proceeded to offer aid to Mr. Harris.

I have requested Mr. Harris to remove into town, and have written a note to the Sultan's Deputy, of which I beg leave to inclose a copy.

Mr. Harris had a very narrow escape from capture, and this incident has naturally revived the anxiety among the Europeans as to the safety of those who inhabit the suburbs. The mountaineers, it is said, have merely retired to a short distance, with the intention of renewing their attempt on some other European. It is eminently desirable that some practical steps should be taken towards establishing some security in this town and its neighbourhood. My French colleague assures me that this question will form the first subject which he will discuss with the Moorish Government at Fez; but it seems to me that speedier methods than protracted negotiations should be found for terminating a condition of things which is vexatious and dangerous, and which, it must be added, should be a matter of immediate concern to those who have undertaken the responsibility of maintaining order and tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 499.

Sir A. Nicolson to Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, December* 2, 1904.

I WISH to inform your Excellency that, owing to the grave risks to which Mr. Harris is exposed should he continue to live in his house, I have requested him not to return there to sleep, but, for the present, to pass his nights in town.

At the same time I must request your Excellency to see that sufficient guards are placed to protect his house and property, as I hold the Moorish Government responsible for all losses or damages which may arise owing to the enforced absence of Mr. Harris.

I shall be glad if your Excellency would also address the Moorish Government on

the subject of the insecurity at present existing in the district, and which renders the lives and safety of all British subjects residing in the suburbs of the town exposed to daily risks.

Peace, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 500.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 3, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extracts from Report which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke on the condition of affairs at Tetuan and its neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 500.

Extracts from Mr. Vice-Consul Bewicke's Report.

ALL the surrounding tribes are said to be in favour of the Pretender, but perhaps it would be more just to describe them as being opposed to the Government.

Everything appears quiet; but the richer Moors are all afraid to go outside the town, and rarely, if ever, even visit their gardens. These gardens are said to be freely plundered by the soldiers.

The state of the town itself is not satisfactory, as robberies are frequent, and shopkeepers have been told to put on extra padlocks.

These robberies are attributed to the soldiers, who are irregularly paid. Their pay is now three weeks in arrears.

The system of guards, for which the shopkeepers have to pay, is bad, as the guards, even if at their posts, are allowed to sleep.

It is generally stated that the whole of the Riff country is in favour of the Pretender; but, as far as I can make out, it is generally considered that the Riffians will not leave their country in any numbers to fight for him.

No. 501.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 12.)

(No. 221.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 4, 1904.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 218 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of further correspondence which has passed between the Sultan's Deputy and myself in regard to the measures to be taken for the protection of the property of Mr. Harris during the enforced absence of that gentleman from his house. The Moorish authorities evidently desire to avoid as far as possible any responsibility, and also suggest that Mr. Harris should pay for the guards which are placed at the house. Were it admitted that it devolved on foreign subjects to determine the number of guards necessary for their protection, and also to pay the soldiers detached for that duty, the sense of responsibility would weigh but lightly with the authorities, while European residents would be burdened with considerable expenses. It seemed to me necessary to decline to accept the views of the Moorish authorities on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 501.

Sid Torres to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) 25 *Ramadan*, 1322 (*December* 3, 1904).

WE have received your letter of yesterday informing me that you had requested Mr. Harris to enter the town on account of the existing dangers, but you ask me to see that sufficient guards are furnished to protect his house and property.

I thank you for your instructions to him to pass the night in town, and I am about to write to the Shereefian Court about what you state, and I have spoken to the Basha about the guards, who is ready to furnish them when the owner of the house lets him know what number is sufficient in accordance with Article XI of the Treaty of 1273 (1856), between the two nations to the effect that the pay of the guards is for account of the person requiring them. I trust your Excellency will instruct Mr. Harris to remove any articles he may fear for that may be in the said house, to avoid accidents, which God forbid.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) MAHOMMED BEN EL ARBI TORRES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 501.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sid Torres.

(Translation.)
(After compliments.) *Tangier, December* 4, 1904.

I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 25th Ramadan, 1322 (3rd December, 1904), by which you ask that the Basha should be informed by Mr. Harris of the number of guards that are required for the protection of his house and property. As the Moorish authorities are responsible for proper protection being accorded, it is for them, and for them alone, to decide as to the number of guards. I do not understand your Excellency's allusion to Article II of the Treaty of 1273 (1856). That Article merely refers to cases where the assistance of the Moorish authorities is required by British Consular officers for the arrest or transport by land or by sea of a British subject charged with some offence; it does not in any way apply to the present case. Articles IV and V of the Treaty are more applicable, as the Sultan therein engages that British subjects are to enjoy perfect security for their lives and properties. I can hardly imagine that the Basha seriously wishes to maintain that Mr. Harris should pay for the guards who are placed at his house. Such a contention is quite inadmissible. The Moorish Government should take measures to preserve order and tranquillity, and afford such protection as would enable peaceable individuals to live in peace and security in their homes. Mr. Harris, owing to the failure of the authorities to maintain order, has been compelled to leave his house at very great inconvenience to himself, and his domestics fear to remain there, and it would indeed be strange if Mr. Harris were also called upon to defray the expenses of those measures of protection which it is the undoubted duty of the Moorish Government and authorities to furnish. I can but impress on your Excellency that I leave the house and properties of Mr. Harris under the care of the Moorish authorities until it is safe for him to return to his house, and that I shall demand full and ample compensation for any losses or damage which may occur.

May you rest, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 502.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 12.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 12, 1904.

MY despatch No. 217 of the 28th ultimo.

The Sultan has answered my letter on the subject of Sid Menebhi. His Majesty agrees that the Tangier properties shall be left to Sid Menebhi, and says that, as regards his personal effects at Fez and Morocco City, the Moorish Government are

prepared to pay him a sum of about 1,200*l.* in compensation, or else to let him take effects to that value. The Sultan only grants the above on the condition that Sid Menebhi leaves Morocco without any delay, and under no circumstances returns here.

This course would not, I think, be fair to Sid Menebhi. It is evident that the Sultan has consulted his Ministers, and I would, therefore, propose to write to Ben Sliman officially, and repeat the proposal made by me to the Sultan, but adding that we had made the question of Sid Menebhi's leaving the country dependent on his realizing all his properties and the embargo being raised. At Sid Menebhi's request we now abandoned these latter points, and his departure from Morocco therefore became an open question; and it could only be agreed to by us on condition that he was awarded a fair sum—which should be at least 10,000*l.*—for setting up his new establishment and for travelling expenses.

In this country there are many dependent on Sid Menebhi, and even when he is elsewhere he will be obliged to support them. Reckoning all sources Sid Menebhi's income would not be more than 3,000*l.* a-year, and this would naturally be reduced if heavy initial outlays were thrown on him in addition. The discharge of his debts in Morocco, as well as the undoubted services rendered by him to the Sultan, should also be taken into consideration.

My letter would take the form of a reply to the last note addressed to me by Ben Sliman, and I would therefore propose to state by way of preface that I did not wish to enter further into the charges advanced by the Moorish Government against Sid Menebhi, as apparently they had no desire for them to be submitted to an investigation; nor did I desire to further discuss the origin of the late Minister for War's protection, which was sufficiently clear.

The French Minister is being kept fully informed by me as to the various stages of the case, but before writing to the Minister for Foreign Affairs I will await your Lordship's instructions.

No. 503.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 12, 1904.

I APPROVE generally the terms of your proposed letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting Menebhi, as outlined in your telegram No. 163. You should use your discretion as to whether to add a stipulation that it is only if Menebhi himself is willing to go that His Majesty's Government could agree to his departure on the terms proposed.

No. 504.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 13.)

(No. 165.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 13, 1904.

I RECEIVED a letter from Sid Torres, the Sultan's Deputy, this morning. He said that the Moorish Government had instructed him to inform me that the Government troops stationed at Ujdah were being incited by letters written by Sid-el-Menebhi to rebel against the Sultan; adding that they wished to warn me that, unless I agreed to deport Sid-el-Menebhi, they would have him arrested should any mishap occur to the Sultan's forces. I told Sid Torres that these were extraordinary charges, and I would not believe a word of them unless I were furnished with undoubted proofs. It was monstrous that the Moorish Government should endeavour to throw the responsibility of any probable defeats which may happen to the forces of the Sultan now on the frontier on a man who was hundreds of miles away from the scene of action and living peaceably, since the great difficulties in which the Sultan's troops found themselves were well known.

I informed Sid Torres that I would make inquiries into the matter, but warned him that any attempt to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi would be followed by very serious

consequences. I would not off-hand condemn a man on a vague accusation. A protected person would never be permitted to raise an agitation against His Shereefian Majesty, so the Moorish Government could rest assured that I would not protect Sid-el-Menebhi if he were proved guilty of what they accused him.

No. 505.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 13, 1904.

I APPROVE your language to the Sultan's Deputy, as reported in your telegram No. 165 of to-day's date. In view, however, of the attitude of the Moorish Government towards Menebhi, and of the complications which may arise if we have to intervene for his protection, it would probably be advisable that he should not remain in Morocco contrary to the will of the Sultan.

No. 506.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 166.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 14, 1904.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

It is not improbable, in my opinion, that the threat of the Moorish authorities to arrest Sid-el-Menebhi will be carried out; the latter declares his absolute innocence of any of the charges made against him. He is now anxious to leave Morocco, and under the present circumstances his departure would be advisable after our terms have been accepted by the Moorish Government.

The French Minister promises that a message shall be sent to the Moorish Government, in which the foolishness of their conduct will be strongly impressed upon them, and he will speak personally with the authorities here to the same effect.

No. 507.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 128.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 14, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 221 of the 4th instant, inclosing copies of further correspondence between the Sultan's Deputy and yourself in regard to the measures to be taken for the protection of the property of Mr. Harris during the enforced absence of that gentleman from his house.

I approve the terms of your note of the 4th instant to Sid Torres on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 508.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 167.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 15, 1904.

THE authorities here have made a solemn promise to the French Minister, who spoke to them very strongly on the subject of Sid-el-Menebhi, that the orders for arrest should not be executed. They denied, indeed, that they had received any orders to effect his arrest, though this denial does not agree with the statement they made to me. A very awkward situation has been averted by the energetic and timely action of M. Saint-René Taillandier.

No. 509.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 15.)

(No. 168. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 15, 1904.

I HAVE been confidentially informed by the French Minister that he has been apprised by the local authorities that they have not sufficient force at their disposal to enable them to guarantee the safety of his Mission and himself between Tangier and Laraiche. In consequence the Mission will proceed to Laraiche by sea.

The French Minister has requested me to treat this information as strictly confidential; it is, however, a proof of the utter breakdown of all authority in the surrounding district.

No. 510.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 17.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 17, 1904.

I HAVE been informed by the Moorish Government that the Sultan has decided that all English officers and employés in his service shall be dismissed. They are to leave in a month's time. This step it is said has been taken to gratify public feeling, and also from motives of economy. My French and Italian colleagues have also received identic letters, and M. Saint-René Taillandier has been requested to withdraw the French Military Mission.

It seems that reactionary elements have gained the upper hand at the Court.

I am sending despatch to your Lordship by bag, giving fuller details.

No. 511.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 222.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 6, 1904.

I REGRET to say that the Moorish Government are effacing the few reforms which had of late years been introduced into the administration, and are reverting to the old malpractices, which, although traditional, might with some perseverance have gradually been removed.

The sale of Government posts had been strictly forbidden, and the prohibition, for a short period, had been very generally observed; while for a time the irregularities and peculations at the Customs had practically ceased, the Customs officials being bound under oath to administer their duties honestly and faithfully. Recently, owing probably to the penury of the Moorish Treasury, posts under Government are again openly sold, and the fortunate candidates have to reimburse themselves by exactions and other means. Their possibilities of extortion, owing to the disturbed state of the country, are less easy than formerly, but their hands weigh the heavier on those who are unable to escape from their demands. In the Customs administration peculation is again general.

A more regrettable instance is, however, to be found in the prison administration. There is no doubt that a marked improvement has been introduced into the conditions of prison life, not only in better sanitary arrangements, but also as regards the prisoners themselves, who were regularly provided with the necessaries of life. Officials were specially appointed to superintend these matters, and for the Tangier district, of which I can speak with certainty, a sum of about 30*l.* a-month was allotted for their pay. This sum was recently reduced to 10*l.* a-month; and now a Shereefian order has been received that even this modest allowance is to cease, and only 30*s.* a-month are to be allotted to those who are to be intrusted with the prison superintendence. This is practically to abolish all control, and there is little doubt that the prisoners will, in future, fare but hardly, being left exposed unaided to the rapacity of the prison officials. I have mentioned the matter to the French Minister, and he

has willingly consented to urge the Moorish Government to re-establish efficient superintendence of the prisons, and to take measures for the proper care and maintenance of the prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 512.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 223.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 10, 1904.*

I INQUIRED this morning of the French Minister whether he had any news to give me from Ujdah, as, according to the latest reports, the garrison there were in some difficulties, and the Pretender was said to have encamped in close proximity to the town.

M. Saint-René Taillandier said that he heard from the French military agent, who had now returned to Ujdah from Algeria, that affairs were practically *in statu quo*. The Pretender appeared to hesitate to make any active movements against the town, and the garrison were awaiting some reinforcements which had lately disembarked near the Moulouya. The situation was, he said, certainly not brilliant; it was unfortunate that the Moorish Government or the local authorities had been so remiss in paying their troops, as numerous desertions had occurred, and there was not as yet a sufficient force to take the offensive against the Pretender.

My French colleague was evidently depressed, not only on account of the situation near the frontier, but in regard to the general aspect of affairs throughout the country, and he lamented the apathy and disorganization which prevailed at the Court, where the Viziers seemed to be chiefly occupied in petty personal intrigues, and disregarded the grave position in which the country is now placed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 513.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 19, 1904.*

MY immediately preceding telegram.

It was through the Sultan's Deputy here that the Moorish Government communicated their intentions to dismiss the European officers; I would therefore propose, after acknowledging the receipt of his note, to inform the Deputy that I will communicate direct with the Minister for Foreign Affairs when I have ascertained the views of His Majesty's Government as to certain points raised in it, but that I doubt if a month be a sufficient period of time in which to bring about an arrangement which would be fair to all parties.

It would be desirable, in my opinion, to await the outcome of the measures which the French Minister will take with regard to the French Military Mission when he arrives at Fez.

No. 514.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December 19, 1904.*

I APPROVE the course of action you propose in your telegrams Nos. 169 and 170 of the 17th and 19th instant.

I should be glad if you would inform me whether the appointments of Sir H. Maclean and other British employés are held on terms which render them liable to be dismissed at one month's notice, and whether they are entitled to claim any retiring allowance or compensation.

No. 515.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 20.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 20, 1904.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 65 of yesterday.

I am unaware whether Major Ogilvie's contract, which was for one year, and which expired, I believe, last February, was tacitly allowed to continue, or whether he obtained a formal renewal of it, but I am making inquiries of this gentleman, and also of the doctor, the terms of whose engagement are not known to me.

Sir H. Maclean had probably no contract; he could give your Lordship further information on this point, as he is now in England.

It would be only fair that Sir H. Maclean should be granted a pension, in consideration of his long services, but I doubt if retiring allowances could be strictly claimed under contract by any of them.

No. 516.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 22.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December 22, 1904.*

I AM informed by the French Minister that, owing to the action of the Sultan in regard to the French Military Mission, instructions have reached him that his Mission to Fez is to be postponed, and that the French Military Mission and all French citizens (including the Vice-Consul) are to be recalled from that town. He is therefore sending orders to the French now in Fez that they must leave within a period of twelve days.

In the circumstances it would, I think, be desirable that His Majesty's Vice-Consul and others should receive similar instructions, if your Lordship would approve of this action being taken. especially as the effect which may be produced in Fez by this decided step of the French cannot possibly be foretold.

M. Saint-René Taillandier told me that he had no information as to whether the French Government intended that this step should be followed by further measures.

I expect that a claim for travelling expenses would be put forward by our people, who are, I believe, fifteen or sixteen in number.

No. 517.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 13, 1904.*

I RECEIVED yesterday a reply from the Court to the letter I had addressed to the Sultan communicating to His Majesty the surrender which Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi was prepared to make to the Moorish Government of all his embargoed property. The reply is an unsigned Memorandum, and the substance is as little satisfactory as the form and tone in which it is written.

I have the honour also to transmit copy of the note which I have addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and which I trust will meet with your Lordship's approval.

In my communication to the Foreign Minister I have not alluded to the offer made in the Memorandum to give El Menebhi a certain sum down for his personal effects and valuables. This sum, which is in Moorish coinage, would only represent about 1,200*l*. I have, however, requested His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez to state to the Foreign Minister that such an offer is most inadequate and inacceptable: but that I have no desire to bargain over these matters and must insist that El Menebhi's personal belongings should be left at his free disposal. I have also told Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod to impress on the Foreign Minister that we have reached the furthermost limit of our concessions, and that further discussion on his Excellency's part would be of no avail.

I understand that the Moorish Government are most anxious that El Menebhi should depart from the country, and this desire will probably induce them to expedite matters in connection with the settlement, and I gather from El Menebhi himself that he does not wish to prolong his sojourn in this country in the present circumstances.

I think that a sum of 10,000*l.* for "frais de déplacement" is not at all excessive in view of all the circumstances. The income which El Menebhi derives from his English investments is but 1,700*l.*, while he only receives about 300*l.* from the rents of his properties here.

Many are dependent on him, and as the net of the Moorish Government has swept wide it has enmeshed several near relatives of El Menebhi, and deprived them of their means of livelihood. These El Menebhi has and will have to support; while the cost of setting up a new establishment in a strange land will be fairly onerous.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 517.

Memorandum from the Moorish Government to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)

Praise to God alone!

CONFIDENTIAL letter reached, requesting that no further dispute occur regarding the properties embargoed against El Menebhi, and asking for the settlement of the matter by El Menebhi retaining the properties he held in Tangier only and the Makhzen taking over all the other properties in Morocco, and the Makhzen allowing him to take the furniture and private effects in the house at Fez and the house at Morocco city. And the reply is that the Makhzen had the intention to maintain its evident rights and not to consent to any such arrangement; but because of the contents of the Confidential letter and from regard for the honour of the writer and that of his nation, the Makhzen will facilitate the matter by accepting the surrender (to Menebhi) of the Tangier properties only, on the condition that the Moorish Government take over all the other properties and effects which are ascribed to him both in the towns and in the country, and on the condition that El Menebhi shall not delay in removing with his family and children from this country (Morocco), and that they never return under any circumstances.

As to his request to take the furniture and private effects in the house at Fez and that at Morocco city it is firmly believed that all they contain is wholly and entirely the property of the Moorish Government, and that none of it belongs to El Menebhi. Still, from regard to the honour of the writer the Government will allow El Menebhi to take the value of 10,000 dollars only of this furniture and effects, or the Moorish Government will give him 10,000 dollars in cash and he take none of the furniture.

This Memorandum is finished.

Written the 28th Ramadan, 1322 (6th December, 1904).

Inclosure 2 in No. 517.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sid-ben-Sliman.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.) *Tangier, December* 13, 1904.

THE note which your Excellency addressed to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires on the 10 Shaaban, 1322 (20th October, 1904), in regard to the case of Sid Mehedi Menebhi was duly received and a copy transmitted to His Majesty's Government for their consideration.

The note of your Excellency dwelt upon some points to which I will merely allude, as it is unnecessary to discuss further the circumstances in which and the reasons for which British protection was accorded to Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi. My Government see no reason to modify or to add to what was written by Mr. White on the subject in his note to your Excellency of 2 Rajab (22nd September). It would also be superfluous to enter into the charges which your Excellency has advanced against Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi as the Moorish Government apparently do not wish to submit the charges to any impartial investigation.

Leaving, therefore, these points on one side, I would wish to refer to the concluding paragraphs of your note of 10 Shaaban (20th October), in which your Excellency expressed a desire that His Majesty's Government would afford their assistance towards settling the case of Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi in a just manner, and in a mode which would be equitable to both parties. I am sure that this desire equally animates my Government, and its fulfilment has been greatly facilitated by Sid-el-Menebhi himself, and at his suggestion I am now in a position to communicate to your Excellency a mode of arrangement which I have no doubt will be promptly accepted by the Moorish Government.

With the consent of Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi, and with the approval of my Government, I am prepared to go so far as to leave to the Moorish Government all the landed properties, as well as the great quantity of agricultural produce of various kinds and the numerous live-stock on which an embargo has been placed, on the condition that the properties which Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi holds at Tangier should remain in his undisturbed possession, to realize or not as he may think fit or as circumstances may require. A further condition is that facilities be accorded him to remove from his houses at Fez and Marrakesh such of his personal effects and furniture as he may wish to retain, and that the remainder he should dispose of by sale or otherwise.

In communicating the above to your Excellency I have no doubt the Moorish Government will appreciate the generous concessions which are now made, and will not hesitate to settle the matter on the above basis.

I have been given to understand that the Moorish Government desire that Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi should leave this country. It is true that my Government saw no objection to the departure of Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi if the embargo on his properties were raised, and if he had been allowed to realize all his estates in Morocco; but it is clear that as these conditions were not fulfilled the question of his departure lapsed.

I am unable to understand why Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi should not remain in his native country as a law-abiding and peaceable individual; and my Government would, I am sure, be unwilling to suggest to him that he should take his departure from Morocco unless arrangements were made which would lighten the financial burden and sacrifices which such a step would naturally impose on him. The wish of the Moorish Government could only be taken into consideration if a sufficient sum were granted to enable him to meet the very heavy expenses he would necessarily incur in removing from Morocco, and in establishing himself with his immediate family in a foreign country. I would estimate such a sum at 10,000*l.* at the lowest. Unless the Moorish Government are prepared to agree to this condition on the terms I have mentioned, I should not feel justified in suggesting to Sid El Menebhi to leave Morocco.

Peace, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 518.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 225.)

My Lord, *Tangier, December* 14, 1904.

YESTERDAY morning the Sultan's Deputy, Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, accompanied by El Mukhri, a gentleman who had been specially sent from Fez to discuss certain commercial matters with the Diplomatic Body, called upon me to deliver a message from the Moorish Government. The message was to the effect that the Moorish Government had been informed that Sid Mehedi el Menebhi was circulating letters among the tribes throughout Morocco, and especially among those in the neighbourhood of Ujdah, inciting them to revolt against the Sultan, and requesting some of them to join him in Tangier. In these circumstances the Moorish Government requested that I should immediately deport El Menebhi, as they were instructed to inform me that in the event of any misfortune occurring to the Government troops near Ujdah the arrest of El Menebhi would be promptly effected.

I told my visitors that I did not believe one word of these stories in regard to El Menebhi's alleged agitation, and I inquired whether they were in a position to furnish me with any proofs. They handed me a letter signed by some petty Governors of tribes near Ujdah, which was to the effect that they had heard that some people had received letters from El Menebhi, and that some of the soldiery had openly stated that they were awaiting his arrival.

I told them that these hearsay and uncorroborated statements were of no value, and that, if El Menebhi had been so active in his correspondence as they stated, presumably they would have no difficulty in procuring for me one inculpatory letter at least. If El Menebhi had been guilty of such reprehensible acts my Government would certainly not protect him, but I should require substantial proof and would certainly not condemn a man on such flimsy material as they had given me.

In regard to the threat as to his arrest I warned the two functionaries that it would be a most hazardous act on the part of the Moorish Government, and would have very serious consequences. It was to me incredible that when discussions were proceeding between the two Governments for the settlement in an amicable and fair manner of the case of El Menebhi, the Moorish Government should venture even to suggest taking any such action as they intimated. I could not, moreover, see any connection between the fortunes of the hard-pressed garrison at Ujdah and the situation of El Menebhi at Tangier. They were well aware that the Government troops were in great difficulties, and it was quite possible that the Pretender would inflict a serious defeat upon them; and therefore to revenge themselves for such a misfortune the Moorish Government wished to visit upon an individual peaceably living hundreds of miles from the scene of operations all the errors of omission and commission which their Commanders on the frontier had committed. The idea was preposterous, and I would again remind them that El Menebhi was under British protection, and could not be arrested in this summary fashion. I would see El Menebhi and show him the document they had handed to me, and also repeat to him what they had communicated to me.

I paid a visit to El Menebhi, who assured me in the most positive manner that he had not written a single line to any tribe or individual which could possibly be twisted into any encouragement to rebel. He was perfectly aware of his obligations as a British-protected person, and would never, under any provocation, so long as he enjoyed that protection, commit any act which could possibly give cause for any complaint. He assured me, by a solemn oath, that he had never, directly or indirectly, by word or by act, endeavoured to detach any one from his allegiance to the Sultan. He would have been a madman, in present circumstances, to have embarked on such a course; and he challenged his detractors to produce any letters of his which could lend colour to the accusation.

I communicated all that had passed to the French Minister; and this morning, having been informed that Hadj Mohammed Torres had sent a private warning to El Menebhi that the Governor of Tangier had orders on receipt of any ill-tidings from Ujdah to effect his arrest without delay, I again called on my French colleague to discuss with him what steps could be taken to avert what would be really an outrage and create a most embarrassing situation.

M. Saint-René Taillandier said that he had already arranged to see Hadj Mohammed Torres and El Mukhri this afternoon, when he intended to speak in the strongest terms to them, and to impress on them that they should lose no time in acquainting the Moorish Government with the extreme folly of their proceedings. He informed me this evening that he had had a lengthy interview with these gentlemen, and, as a result of the strong language which he had felt it necessary to employ, they had given him their words of honour that the arrest should not be effected; and they indeed added that no orders for the arrest had arrived, but that this measure was only contemplated in the event of proofs being forthcoming that El Menebhi had in reality been guilty of the acts which had been charged against him. This latter statement is hardly in accord with that which they had made to me; but it is not of importance to examine too closely the accuracy of the memory of Moorish officials. M. Saint-René Taillandier, in conclusion, told them that, now that they had given him their words of honour, he intended to give me his guarantee that no arrest would be effected; and that if events were to prove that he had been deceived by them they would understand the gravity of the consequences.

The opportune and energetic action of M. Saint-René Taillandier will, I feel sure, have a most salutary effect, and I feel bound to express my gratitude to him for the frank and friendly co-operation which he so cordially gave, and which, I think, has averted a most unpleasant incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 519.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 226. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 16, 1904.

THE French Minister spoke to me yesterday in regard to the anti-European feeling which appeared to be growing in intensity among influential circles at the Court, and which, he feared, according to the information he had received from Fez, would find expression in some ill-advised acts. He was told that he should be prepared to receive a request for the recall of the French military Mission; and he understood that the dismissal of all the Europeans in the service of the Moorish Government was contemplated. The Sultan and his advisers appeared to have come to the conclusion that all Europeans should be kept at a distance, that they should conduct their affairs according to their own methods, and without outside assistance or advice. My French colleague had further heard that this new departure had been the result of a meeting which had been called by the Sultan of all the principal Ulemas and Shereefs of Fez to discuss the situation, and that the opinions of these reactionary individuals had prevailed in inducing the Sultan to discharge all Christians and to trust solely to native advisers.

The French Minister added that of late he had noticed, and that probably myself and our other colleagues had received similar impressions, that the Moorish Government had adopted in their official communications an arrogant tone, and appeared to be disposed to render friendly and courteous intercourse with them as difficult as possible. In view of the vacillating and changeable moods of the Sultan, it was quite possible that this new phase would not be persisted in for any time; and that the dismissal of all Europeans from the Moorish service would not be carried into effect; still it was well to take note of the present attitude, and it was a matter which would demand his very serious attention when he reached Fez. The curious feature in this new movement was that it originated, he was told, in great measure from the reports brought to Fez by a Notable of that town, who, on his return from the pilgrimage to Mecca, had passed some time in Turkey. He seems to have carried away with him from Constantinople a high opinion of the power and might of the Ottoman Sultan, who, he has related, enjoys a lofty place among European Powers while conducting his administration through Moslems alone and in accordance with Islamic precepts. The pilgrim's studies of the situation in Turkey cannot have been very profound, but my French colleague has been informed that his reports have made much impression in Fez.

I told my French colleague that I—and I knew several of our colleagues also—had found that intercourse with the Moorish Government had of late been neither facile nor agreeable; and there had been unmistakable signs of a reactionary policy. I had attributed this to a desire to regain, if possible, some popularity in the country; but, to my mind, matters had gone so far that the people generally now paid little attention to the acts or sentiments of their Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 520.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 23.)

(No. 228.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December* 16, 1904.

THE French Minister informed me, in confidence, that the escort and baggage animals, which were to convey his Mission to Fez, had arrived at Laraiche, but that the officer in command had come here by sea, and, in company with the Sultan's deputy, had paid him a visit. These gentlemen expatiated for some time on the difficulties of travelling from here to Laraiche after the heavy rains, but my French colleague explained that he intended to proceed by the sea-shore where travelling was good. After some hesitation, the officer stated that he was afraid the road was not quite safe. This, my French colleague remarked, was an affair in which he had no concern; he wished to go by land to Laraiche, and it was the duty of the authorities to convey him there. The two functionaries said it would be necessary to obtain a reinforcement of 200 men for the escort, and possibly force a passage through. The French Minister replied he did not wish to inquire into their measures, all that he

desired was to be taken to Laraiche. Eventually the Sultan's deputy confessed that it was impossible for the authorities to insure the safe convoy of the French Minister by land to Laraiche, and the latter then observed that, as they now admitted the impossibility, he would go to Laraiche by sea.

It is without precedent that a foreign Mission has been unable to proceed from Tangier to the capital by one of the ordinary routes, and, as the fact will soon be generally known that the French Mission has had to change its route, the arrogance of the disorderly elements will be increased. I trust that the journey from Laraiche to Fez will proceed without mishap; hitherto that portion of the road has been safe, but it is impossible to predict what extension the general lawlessness will take, and in what new direction it will manifest itself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 521.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 229.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 16, 1904.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 210 of the 12th ultimo, I regret to have to report that the Moorish Government replied to the note of the Diplomatic Body, which had requested the maintenance of the coastwise trade in grain, by stating that they were unable to accede to our request for reasons which would be verbally explained by the Sultan's deputy here.

These reasons were to the effect that the Moorish Treasury was in a straitened condition, and could only permit coastwise trade on payment of a duty of equal amount to that paid for the export of grain. Such a duty would be prohibitive; and on the 7th proximo no wheat or barley will arrive in Tangier from the coast towns, and much distress and hardships will thereby be caused in all districts in this neighbourhood. The French Minister has undertaken to urge the Moorish Government to rescind the prohibition when he is at Fez, but in the most favourable circumstances there will be a period of some duration before any remedial measures can be adopted.

It was unfortunate that when the first notification of the intentions of the Moorish Government had been received, it was not at once made clear to them that they were withdrawing a concession they had permanently granted; but a confusion arose between the coastwise and export trade in grain, and the Diplomatic Body unluckily had only in view the latter commerce, and had forgotten that it was on a totally different footing from the former.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 522.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 230.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 17, 1904.*

HIS Majesty's Vice-Consul at Fez reports that the annual parade of all the troops at Fez took place on the 9th instant to celebrate the conclusion of the Ramadan Fast. Although every available man was ordered on parade, there were only present 1,650 in all, and of these, Mr. Macleod tells me, at least a third were mere boys. The garrison proper at Fez consists now of but 1,150 men, and the only tribal contingent which could be collected was one under Kaïd Aissa-ben-Omar, which numbered, at the outside, 500 men. Kaïd Aissa had collected in the south, with considerable difficulty, a force variously estimated between 2,500 and 3,000 men, but when he arrived with this body at Rabat, news reached his men of the outbreak of disorders in their several homes, and the greater portion immediately left for their respective districts. Kaïd Aissa reached Fez with but a hundred men, but was hastily sent back to Rabat to collect further reinforcements, and he contrived by bribes and other inducements to be able to return to Fez in time for the Feast with some 300 or 400 more men.

The Government are anxious that the Minister of War, Sid Mohammed Guebbas, and Kaïd Aissa Omar should proceed to the south and endeavour to re-establish order. Sid Mohammed Guebbas told my informant that he was most anxious to avoid this duty. He was in poor health, and knew the hopelessness of the task with which it was desired to intrust him. Moreover, he did not, at present, dare to quit the Court, as his rivals among the other Viziers were determined to oust him from his post if he were to absent himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

No. 523.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 17, 1904.*

I REGRET to have to report that the condition of affairs at Tangier is becoming daily more disquieting, and the disorderly elements are becoming more aggressive and more indifferent to Government authority. Incidents which have taken place this week in the town itself, when the members of different tribes were on the point of settling differences in the public market, and when a caravan was plundered by some of Reissouli's men at the entrance to the town, showed to what extent the spirit of lawlessness has spread. Moreover, the soldiery are not to be depended on. When placed as guards over the houses of private individuals they afford no protection, but take every opportunity of robbing and pilfering; and I received requests from British subjects to have their guards removed, as they find them to be sources of danger and annoyance rather than of protection.

The French Minister spontaneously spoke to me this morning as to the state of affairs, which he said was undoubtedly going from bad to worse; and he told me he had visited the Governor of the town yesterday and had spoken very seriously to him on the subject, and had impressed on him that all responsibility for the maintenance of order rested on him personally.

I have no belief in the Governor being able to effect anything of any practical value. He is disliked by the troops, whom he has robbed in the most shameful manner, and possesses no authority.

The organization of a police force here is a most pressing necessity. To rely on untrained and doubtful native troops will lead to no results. As matters now stand, the disembarkation of foreign troops—though doubtless it would speedily and effectively re-establish order here—might raise a conflagration throughout the country and endanger Christian lives in localities where protection could not be afforded. Should the moment arrive—and I think that eventually it must arrive—for the employment of foreign troops, the movement must be on a considerable scale, and general in its operations. At the same time the institution of a well-paid force raised from local native levies, free from the intervention of the local authorities, and placed under two or three French officers with a few Algerian non-commissioned officers would effect a great improvement without raising any agitation. At present the French Instructor here has no authority over the men, and meets with continual obstruction from the Governor in the discharge of the limited duties he is permitted to perform. No satisfactory results can be thereby obtained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON

No. 524.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 232.)
My Lord, *Tangier, December 17, 1904.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a note I have received from the Sultan's Deputy here and his new coadjutor, Mohammed-el-Mukhri, informing me that the Sultan has decided to dispense with the services of the foreign

instructors at the Shereefian Court, and requesting me to acquaint the British subjects holding such positions, so that they may leave Fez within a month.

The French and Italian Ministers have received letters written in terms identic with that which has been addressed to me. The French Minister is requested to withdraw the French Military Mission at Fez and the French officer at Rabat; while the Italian Minister is informed that the services of the three Italian officers in charge of the arsenal at Fez are no longer required.

In my despatch No. 226 of the 16th instant I reported to your Lordship the information which my French colleague had imparted to me as to the reactionary wave which was passing over the Court, and as to the likelihood of some measures being taken in regard to the European employés.

I have consulted both with my French and Italian colleagues on the subject. M. Saint-René Taillandier, who departs in a very few days on his mission to Fez, is, I gather, decided to decline meeting the wishes of the Moorish Government as far as regards the French officers; and it is clear and self-evident that his Government could not agree, in present circumstances, to the removal of the French Mission. He also would view with displeasure, and he is sure that his Government would also, the abrupt dismissal of foreign officers, some of whom have been for lengthy periods in the Moorish service.

It would perhaps be difficult to contest the right of the Sultan to dispense with the services of those British instructors who have been engaged on short contracts; and I here allude to Major Ogilvy and the two non-commissioned officers. Major Ogilvy's contract, and those of his two sergeants, expired, if I mistake not, in February last; and I am unaware whether these contracts were formally renewed, or have been tacitly allowed to continue. In regard to Dr. Verdon, I have no knowledge as to the terms under which he was engaged as doctor to the Court. On these points I could obtain information from the gentlemen themselves.

With respect to Sir H. Maclean, his case stands on a different footing, and after his lengthy service I do not think he should depart until some arrangements were made to secure to him a suitable pension.

I would venture to suggest that I should inform the Sultan's Deputy that I have received his note; that it raises points on which I must consult with your Lordship; and that I will subsequently communicate to the Moorish Government direct on the subject; but that I much doubt if the matter can reach any arrangement fair to all parties within the short period of one month.

I think it would be advisable to await the results of the steps which the French Minister may take as regards the French officers on his arrival at Fez, and then we could be guided as to the course to adopt in respect to our own people. I am sure that the French Minister would be willing to act in the spirit of Article 5 of the Anglo-French Declaration, and to use his influence to secure that the departure of our officers, if it has to take place, would be effected in a manner which would not be injurious to their interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure in No. 524.

Sid Torres and Amin Mukri to Sir A. Nicolson.

(Translation.)
After Compliments.

YOUR Excellency is not unaware of the state of the Shereefi Treasury at the present time owing to the considerable increase of expenditure—outlay and disbursements occasioned by the measures taken for extinguishing and terminating the rebellion. And the Moorish Government have been compelled to give the utmost consideration to all those possible measures by which to increase the revenues of the Treasury and to lessen as far as possible its expenditure, and it has actively begun to economize in its expenditure as is necessitated by the circumstances; and under this head the Moorish Government have decided to dismiss the foreign instructors holding positions at the Shereefian Court and free them from service, and to authorize them to depart, as a measure to diminish the expenditure by the amount of their salaries, &c., and to dispel the ideas raised in the minds of the (Moorish) subjects at the present time. We therefore request your Excellency to inform Mr. Maclean, Major Ogilvy,

and Dr. Verdon, and also the instructors who are with them, of the Shereefian decision, and to instruct them to act in accordance therewith within the term of one month from this date.

May you rest, &c.
(Signed) MOHAMMED-BEN-EL-ARBI TORRES.
MOHAMMED-EL-MUKHRI.

Showal 7, 1322 (*December* 15, 1904).

No. 525.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 173.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 23, 1904.

MY telegram No. 172 of yesterday.

I suggested recalling Mr. Vice-Consul McLeod, so as to act in co-operation with the French, but the step will be inconvenient in many ways. It is possible that Europeans at Fez may be in some danger, as the French action may be considered as a concession to the reactionary party.

The dismissal of the minor British employés was apparently not contemplated, and they possibly will not be willing to leave; it is therefore puzzling to know how to act in regard to them. The travelling expenses and the hotel bills here for all the British subjects will be considerable, and it is doubtful if these outlays will be reimbursed by the Moorish Government, and whether we should be justified in asking them to do so.

No. 526.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 23, 1904.

REFERRING to your telegram No. 172 of the 22nd instant, I am of opinion that if the French Residents are being recalled by their Government, ours had better be withdrawn as well.

You should confer with your French colleague on the subject of the expenses. I think we should eventually recover them from the Moorish Government.

No. 527.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 23, 1904.

IN view of the position which France now occupies in Morocco, it seems evident that when she withdraws her subjects we should not retain ours.

No. 528.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 24.)

(No. 658.)
My Lord, *Paris, December* 23, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram published this morning very conspicuously in the columns of the "Matin," * and purporting to have been sent by the special correspondent of that newspaper at Tangier. Your Lordship will see that it describes in a somewhat sketchy fashion the situation in Morocco, but condemns strongly the exaggerated accounts of disorder in Tangier itself and the neighbourhood, forwarded by foreign correspondents to Spain, America, and especially to England.

* Not printed.

The telegram, however, goes on to admit the serious condition of affairs at Fez; and the same correspondent, in a later telegram of the same date (the 22nd December), states that the French Minister has informed the Ministerial Council at Fez that in obedience to orders from his Government he will not at present proceed to the Moorish capital.

Acting on the same authority, M. Saint-René Taillandier has recalled the Military Mission from Fez to Tangier, and ordered the French Vice-Consul to collect the few Frenchmen resident at Fez and to leave the capital with them within the space of twelve days after the arrival of the messenger.

M. Delcassé, returned to Paris, was present at the Cabinet Council held at the Elysée this morning; but in the official communiqué, issued as to the business then transacted, no mention is made of the question of Morocco having occupied the attention of the President and his Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 529.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 24.)

(No. 174.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 24, 1904.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of yesterday, No. 66.

The question of travelling and other expenses of His Majesty's Vice-Consul and the British residents in Fez has been discussed by the French Minister and myself, and I would suggest that the Vice-Consul should be authorized to draw on the British Legation for the sum necessary to defray the expenses.

He will receive instructions from me to request all British subjects to leave Fez in his company, and to leave himself at his earliest convenience.

In view of the security of British subjects in other places in the interior, I asked M. Saint-Réne Taillandier whether, if the desired result should not follow the withdrawal of French subjects from Fez, further and more decided steps were contemplated by his Government. Such steps might cause a general upheaval, by which the lives of Europeans would be endangered. Though the French Minister was unable to give me any definite information on this point, he considered that prudence demanded that British subjects at Morocco City and elsewhere should be warned to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the coast. I propose to await further developments of the question before acting in this sense.

No. 530.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 26.)

(No. 175.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 26, 1904.

I AM informed by the German Chargé d'Affaires that he has received orders that the German Vice-Consul at Fez is to remain in that city so long as is compatible with his personal safety. Instructions to the same effect have been received by the Italian Minister with reference to the officers of his country, who are now employed in the arsenal at Fez. The remaining Italian officers, two in number, are at present away on leave.

(Confidential.)

The French Minister, I believe, hopes and expects that the Sultan will give way when he is informed of the imminent departure of the French, and my French colleague would, I think, be glad to avail himself of an opportunity to revoke his previous instructions for the departure from Fez of French citizens, or, at least, to extend the present time limit. Should the obduracy of the Sultan continue, the French would be confronted by a difficult situation. I have instructed the British residents at Fez that their departure should not precede that of the French.

No. 531.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 27.)

(No. 660.)
Paris, December 26, 1904.

My Lord,

THE news of the dismissal by the Sultan of Morocco of his foreign Advisers and employés, including the French Military Mission, has attracted, as is natural, great attention in France. It has been hailed by the prophets of evil in respect of the responsibilities undertaken by France in Morocco, under the Anglo-French Understanding of the 8th April last, as an early confirmation of their warnings. The Government press, however, is not yet prepared to admit that the policy of "pacific penetration" will have to be abandoned. It agrees with the Opposition newspapers in declaring loudly that the slight put upon the Power which is to be henceforward the predominant one in Morocco must be resented and punished. But it holds that the measures to be taken with this end in view must be such as not to impair the Sultan's authority, which is still to be the main instrument of the French pacific advance into the country. In the article herewith transmitted to your Lordship, the "Temps" hints at two possible alternatives.* Either the Oujda district may be annexed, or the eight ports open to foreign commerce may be seized and held pending compliance with the French demands.

The latter course, however, might prove dangerous to the Sultan himself, and should only be adopted, in the opinion of the "Temps," in the event of the Sultan's folly compelling the French Government to take the most thorough-going measures. Meanwhile there is general approval of M. Delcassé's action in withdrawing all the French citizens residing in Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 532.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 176.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 28, 1904.

LAST night some Moors entered the house of a Spaniard in the employment of a British subject and shot him dead. The house is about ¾-mile distant from Tangier, and the Spaniard was unable to offer any resistance, as he was unarmed. The ploughing oxen of the British subject were at the place, and were carried off by the Moors.

I do not anticipate that the local authorities will take any effective steps in the matter, though the Spanish Minister and myself are making representations to them. I have also called the French Minister's attention to the matter, trusting that some measures may be taken speedily to put an end to these acts of violence which are continually occurring in the immediate neighbourhood of Tangier.

No. 533.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 28.)

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, December* 28, 1904.

M. DELCASSÉ informs me that there is still, he thinks, a slight hope that the Sultan of Morocco may assume, as he has done before on two occasions when he displayed violent temper at first, a more conciliatory and sensible attitude.

His Excellency is, at any rate, determined not to lose his head himself, and to take no premature or precipitate action but to await, while remaining firm, further developments. He has in no way changed his views upon the general policy which France should pursue in Morocco.

* Not printed.

His Excellency, to give opportunity for a public interpellation, was yesterday both at the Senate and at the Chamber, but no one raised the question of Morocco, beyond a few members in the lobbies.

The attitude taken by His Majesty's Government and their Minister at Tangier was mentioned with gratitude by M. Delcassé.

No. 534.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 28, 1904.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 174 of the 24th instant.

It seems to me that there is some risk in disregarding the advice of your French colleague, but you are no doubt best able to judge whether the warning suggested by him is necessary or not.

No. 535.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 98.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, December* 28, 1904.

WITH reference to Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 174 of the 24th instant, repeated to you, I have to request you to communicate with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the "further and more decided measures" in Morocco. You should request his Excellency to be good enough to keep His Majesty's Government fully informed in advance as to any measures which might possibly create additional excitement, and place the lives of Europeans in danger.

No. 536.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 131.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 28, 1904.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 224 of the 13th instant, inclosing copies of correspondence with the Moorish Government regarding the surrender which Sid Mehedi-el-Menebhi was prepared to make to them of all his embargoed property.

I approve your action and the terms of the note which you have addressed to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 537.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 29, 1904.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 69 of the 28th instant.

The French Minister leads me to understand that no serious measures are likely to be taken in the immediate future, and he now tells me that he agrees with me that, in order to avoid causing any premature alarm, it would be for the present more prudent not to warn British subjects residing in the interior. Should the occasion arise there would be ample time to issue the necessary warnings.

News as to the withdrawal of the European residents and officials ought to reach us from Fez in three days or so.

No. 538.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 29, 1904.

IN my private letter to Sir E. Gorst I mentioned a Moorish official who was proceeding to Egypt. I have since ascertained that he has gone, not to Egypt, but to Madrid, and will subsequently visit Paris, London, Berlin, and Constantinople. The French Minister was assured by this official that he was travelling solely on the private affairs of the Sultan, and that his journey was undertaken with no political object.

No. 539.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 29.)

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 29, 1904.

MY despatch No. 224 of the 13th December.

I have received an answer from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to my letter of the 13th instant on the subject of Sid-el-Menebhi. His Excellency accepts all the conditions mentioned in it. I will now communicate this result to Sid-el-Menebhi, and request him to make all the necessary arrangements for his departure, and other minor matters.

No. 540.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 133.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, December* 29, 1904.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 175 of the 26th instant, I approve your directions to British subjects at Fez to defer their departure from that city until French nationals have received definite instructions to leave.

I am, &c.
(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

No. 541.

Sir A. Nicolson to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, December* 30, 1904.

I AM informed by the French Minister that assurances and explanations from the Sultan in person and from the Moorish Government have been received by the French Vice-Consul at Fez. These explanations give good ground for hope that the present difficulty may be solved in a satisfactory manner. A communication in writing from the Moorish Government is expected by the French Minister, which he hopes to be able to accept.

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No. 542.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received December* 30.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, December* 30, 1904.

MOORISH official mentioned in Sir A. Nicolson's telegram No. 178 and your Lordship's telegram No. 47 arrived in Madrid on Monday, and left for Paris, London, Berlin, and Constantinople yesterday.

He said that his journey was not political, and he did not call on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, but saw the French Chargé d'Affaires.

The Spanish Government were not informed by their police of his having visited Granada, Cordoba, and Seville, or even of his arrival at Madrid, though they knew of his having landed at Algeciras.

F.O. 413